AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER

VOL. 25 No. 1232 – Tuesday, March 22 2005

22/03 16

• REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIAN POST
• PUBLICATIONS No. NBQ5726

WEEKLY

$3.60 GST INCLUSIVE

Australia 3 Iraq 1

By John Economos

AUSTRALIA's National coach Frank Farina on Saturday night at Sydney's Telstra Stadium will walk out through the Players' tunnel inspired by some historical knowledge. Some 32 years ago Australia crushed a powerful and rugged team from Iraq to the tune of 3-1 in a torrid World Cup Qualifier.

And this was the very first time these two nations had ever met, a real battle in a 1974 World Cup qualifier.

On Saturday Australia meets Iraq for the fourth time, having played two World Cup qualifiers back in March 1973 and last year in Crete at the Athens 2004 Olympics.

Farina was just eight years old back then when National coach Rale Rasic led his legendary Australian World Cup team, (captained by Peter Wilson), out onto the playing pitch at the Sydney Sportsground, (now Aussie Stadium), in front of a capacity crowd of 28,514, to face a battled-hardened Iraq.

Strangely enough, both captains were sweepers, Wilson for Australia and the powerfully built stocky Iraqi, Abid Kadum.

The first half ended scoreless as the fulltime Iraq team pounded the unyielding and defiant part-time Australians. The torrid battle saw Australia in the 23rd minute tragically lose ball-playing left winger Branko Buljevic. He left the pitch with a nasty gashed wound on his head after he had been involved in a head-clash with the Iraqi great captain Kadum.

Whilst Buljevic was replaced by steely striker Ernie Campbell, the Iraqi captain bravely elected to come back on the pitch with his head heavily bandaged.

Australia's tenacious midfield of Jimmy Rooney, Ray Richards and Jimmy Mackay, so gallantly led by mercurial midfielder Ray Baartz, firmly held Iraq out of scoring range.

However the second half exploded up to another level which saw the courageous, but now more aggressively adventurous Australians, slowly but surely tighten its grip on the match.

(Continued on page 4)

World Cup striker Adrian ('Noddy') Alston scores Australia's second goal with a bullet header past Iraq's stranded goalkeeper Abdul Rahman as the Iraq captain Abid Kadum (No.3) heavily bandaged races in belatedly to cover at the Sydney Sports Ground on 11th March 1973

POWERADE SERIES 2005

AUSTRALIA VS. IRAQ

TELSTRA STADIUM MARCH 26TH 7PM

One of the biggest matches of the year featuring the Qantas Socceroos' international stars Cahill, Emerton, Bresciano and Schwarzer.

Tickets from $25 or $50 for a family of 4

BOOK NOW
GET THE BEST SEATS
TICKETEK.COM.AU
CALL 13 28 49

FOOTBALL FEDERATION AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH
SOCCER
WEEKLY

Issue No. 1232
Published every Tuesday by
F.L. Press P/L
1-9 Glebe Point Road,
Glebe. NSW. 2037

ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES

John Economos
Tel: (02) 9744 6984

TELEPHONE
(editorial and general enquiries)
Tel: (02) 9566 0500

EMAIL
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)
ABSW's EMAIL
*absw@foreignlanguage.com.au
*absw007@hotmail.com
FACSIMILE
(editorial, advertising and general enquiries)
(02) 9660 5736

MAILING ADDRESS
1-9 Glebe Point Road,
Glebe. NSW. 2037

EDITOR
Mark Stavroulakis
LAYOUT/TYPESETTER
Mary Quartly
PICTURE EDITOR
Carlos Furtado

CORRESPONDENTS
John Economos (Sydney)
Alan Clark (Victoria)
Glenn Davis (Brisbane)
Otto Bader (Wollongong)
Richard Kreider (Perth)
Joe Russo (Sydney)
Peter Damalas (Sydney)
Daniel Kuziow (Sydney)
Daniel Giorelando (Sydney)
Ben Coonan (Sydney)
Daniela Raco (Victoria)

SCANNING
Chris Jiang
FILM PLANNING

PHOTOGRAPHY
-Getty Images
-Carlos Furtado
-Con Poulos (www.spinpix.com)
DISTRIBUTION NSW/ACT:
F.L. Press P/L 1-9 Glebe Point Rd,
Glebe. NSW. 2037.
Tel: (02) 9660 2033

VICTORIA:
F.L. Press P/L 72 Gipps Street,
Collingwood VIC 3066
Tel: (03) 9415 8588
Fax: (03) 9415 8944

SOUTH AUSTRALIA:
Advertiser Newspapers Ltd
Waymouth St, Adelaide SA 5000
Tel: (08) 8218 9329

WESTERN AUSTRALIA:
Pan Hellenic Emporium,
67 James Street, Perth WA 6000
Tel: (08) 9328-4779

Recommended and maximum price.
*All material appearing in
Australian and British Soccer Weekly
is copyright and reproduction in any form
whatsoever is expressly
forbidden without the written
permission of the publisher.
The publisher accepts no responsibility for
unsolicited manuscripts,
illustrations or photographic material.
Deadline for contributions, articles and advertising is 3 days PRIOR to issue date.

Giraldi 'wowing' them at Empoli

Dez Giraldi: Aussie star is doing well at Empoli

By Joe Russo

Young Australian Dez Giraldi continues to shine for Empoli in their primavera (Under 20) side. Last Saturday was an important afternoon for his side Empoli as they defeated a very strong Lazio side which included several first team players, including Roberto Delgado.

It was an even more important day for Giraldi who scored just before half time in the 33rd minute. And, as a Roma supporter, it was all the more special for young Giraldi. He inherited his love for Roma from his grandfather who is from Rome.

"Yes, it was an important win for us against Lazio," Giraldi told *ABSW* exclusively from Italy. "They are in second place and came to Empoli with a very strong side including two first team players.

"We dominated most of the first half and lucky enough the with the first opportunity I had I scored with a nice volley. The second half was a great team effort as Lazio made three changes and went looking for a goal, but we held on and were strong in defence.

"It was a great team effort today against a side that, in my opinion, is the best in the league.

"I was very pleased with my performance and being a big supporter of Roma it made it that little bit more special. I'm sure my nonno will be ecstatic"

Giraldi, who has been regularly praised by Empoli coach Giuseppe Vitali in the Italian media this year, still hopes to represent Australia at the Youth World Cup in June this year although it is uncertain just how much Young Socceroo coach Ange Postecoglou has monitored his progress.

However, the very modest and superbly talented Giraldi played down his potential call-up into the Australian team. He pledged to continue his hard work and expressed how he hopes to continue doing well with Empoli.

"Although a call up into the Australian side at this stage is slim, I'll still continue to progress and work hard," he said. " As long as I'm scoring goals and learning more and more everyday, then my job will continue to be enjoyable.

However, if or when my opportunity comes, I will be ready," concluded Giraldi from his home in Empoli.

EMPOLI F.C.
1920

SOCCER NSW

Call for Submissions

SOCCER NSW

Inquiry into crowd disturbances at Sydney United Sports Centre, Edensor Park, Sydney on Sunday 13 March 2005

The Panel of Inquiry appointed by Soccer NSW welcomes written submissions from interested persons and bodies.

Submissions should address the cause of crowd disturbances, the adequacy of existing legislation to ensure the maintenance of public order at sporting events, the adequacy of sanctions against individuals involved in disrupting the quiet enjoyment of those attending soccer matches, and recommendations about safety and security at future football matches.

Written submissions should be forward by mail to:

Independent Soccer Inquiry
P.O. Box A2618
Sydney South, NSW 1235
By Fax to (02) 8255 6816
Or By Email: soccerinquiry@crc.nsw.gov.au

By 5pm Wednesday 6 April 2005

Panel of Inquiry

Stepan Kerkyasharian AM (Chair)
Irene Moss AO (Committee Member)
Kevin Waller AM (Committee Member)

2006 SOCCER WORLD CUP

Packages now on sale from $5790 Per person Twin share

Germany - June 2006
Berlin, Frankfurt or Munich
10 Days with 3 Games //
17 Days with 6 Games

Also Final & Semi-Final packages

Confederations Cup
Germany—June 2005

Au$4990 Per person Twin share

Join former Socceroo legend
Doug Utjesenovic

Depart 13th June for 11 day Supporters Tour.

Australia v
Germany, Argentina & Tunisia

Includes:
- Flights
- Accommodation
- Match tickets
- Transfers
- Day tours of Frankfurt and Nuremburg

For further information please contact **Bruce Tilt** *at ....*

International Sports Tours
Phone: (02) 9922 6166 Toll Free: 1 800 242 987
Email: bruce@sportstours.com.au
Visit: www.sportstours.com.au

School Holidays Coming ... So are Soccer Camps

Next month April 11-15 the 'Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps' kick-off for the School Holidays.

The live telecasting of the last World Cup finals, gravitated a large number of young Australians to Soccer.

Already kids at school are talking about their newly-found Soccer heroes.

Today, more than ever, Australian school kids are fully acquainted with such names as Beckham, Ronaldinho, Diouf, Morientes, Raul, Recoba, Silva, Ashley Cole, Robbie Keane, Hong, Inamato, Klose, Figo, Owen, Ronaldo, Rivaldo, Fernando Hierro, Roberto Carlos Vieri, Totti, etc.

The World Cup has infected thousands of new, Australian school kids who now are rapidly developing a stronger passion for the game also believed to be played in heaven.

With the April School Holidays just around the corner, where better than to get the kids out of the house and enrolled into the 'Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps' at one of the 13 centres across Sydney.

Australia's largest and most reputable Soccer clinics, are 'THE PACIFIC UMBRO SOCCER CAMPS' having now been established just over 22 years. The Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps have been strategically set up at 13 geographically-convenient centres that stretch the vast region of Sydney.

'Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps' have been organised at Canterbury, Caringbah, Castle Hill, Chatswood, Eastwood, Emu Plains, Frenchs Forest, Hunters Hill, Hurstville, Kellyville, Kirrawee, Mona Vale, Pennant Hills, Quakers Hill, St Clair and at St Ives.

Each individual Centre has Indoor facilities in case of wet weather.

These meticulously planned quality Soccer Camps over the past two decades have been well designed and fine-tuned by the highly experienced Technical Director, Mr Richard Alagich.

Mr Alagich stated to *ABSW* this week: "We're very proud of our Soccer Camps and the strong reputation we have tenaciously worked for to build up over these long years. I confess it has been very hard work as we have consciously strived to give quality plus value, to all young students, enrolling in our popular Soccer Camps."

Richard Alagich Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps' Technical Director lecturing three Camp students.

Mr Alagich added: "Even in recent years, our reputation in coaching youngsters has reached overseas including Japan. The Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps have been specifically structured to cater for boys and girls from the ages of 6 through to 14 years," Mr Alagich elaborated.

Each Camp offers 20 hours of technical and tactical, coaching, and each enrolled student receives a Pacific Umbro Soccer Camp T-Shirt plus free drinks.

The highly experienced and well-known Fred Wall, the Camps' Manager and leading Youth Goalkeeping coach, during the coming April Camps will be based at the St Ives Soccer Camp centre.

Special discounts are available for families, Groups or Club registrations.

The four hour daily Camps kick-off on Monday April 11 and go though till Friday April 15.

Registrations to attend these excellent April School Holiday Soccer Camps close on 8th April 2005. Enrolments must be fully completed by this last date to ensure your child's acceptance into one of the above 15 and well situated Soccer Camps.

For further information, booking enquiries and registrations, please make contact by phone the 'Pacific Umbro Soccer Camp' offices on 02-9977 2992 or by Faxing to 02-9977-0376.

Don't leave it too late.

Pacific Umbro Soccer Camps

UMBRO

SPONSOR OF WORLD CHAMPIONS IS PROUD TO PRESENT THE

PACIFIC UMBRO SOCCER CAMP

PEPSI

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

5 DAYS 9.00am to 1.00pm

FOR BOYS & GIRLS AGED 6-14 YRS

15 LOCATIONS SYDNEY WIDE

SOCCER

See Inside

Monday to Friday 9.00am to 1.00pm
APRIL 11-15 2005

- Officially Endorsed
- Established 1978
- Child Protection No: 12098
- Insurance Cover for Participants

Richard Alagich
Technical Director

CAMP BOOKING AND ENQUIRIES
Ph: 9977 2992 Fax: 9977 0376
email@pacificsoccer.com.au

OR visit our website:

www.pacificsoccer.com.au

CAMP LOCATIONS

CANTERBURY	— Canterbury Boys High School, Holden Street, Canterbury
CARINGBAH	— Endeavour High School, The Boulevarde, Caringbah
CASTLE HILL	— Castle Hill High School, Castle Street, Castle Hill
CHATSWOOD	— Chatswood High School, Centennial Avenue, Chatswood
EASTWOOD	— Epping Boys High School, Vimiera Road, Eastwood
FRENCHS FOREST	— The Forest High School, Frenchs Forest Rd, Frenchs Forest
HUNTERS HILL	— Hunters Hill High School, Reiby Road, Hunters Hill
HURSTVILLE	— Hurstville Boys High School, Kenwyn Street, Hurstville
KELLYVILLE	— Kellyville High School, York Road, Kellyville
KIRRAWEE	— Kirrawee High School, Hunter Street, Kirrawee
MONA VALE	— Kitchner Park, Pittwater Rd, Mona Vale
PENNANT HILLS	— Pennant Hills High School, Laurence Street, Pennant Hills
QUAKERS HILL	— Quakers Hill High School, Lalor Road, Quakers Hill

ALL LOCATIONS HAVE INDOOR FACILITIES IN THE EVENT OF WET WEATHER

PACIFIC — UMBRO SOCCER CAMP FEES

*with **SPECIAL DISCOUNTS** for your **CLUB** or **FAMILY***
Get a group booking together and take advantage of these fantastic discounts

FULL SESSION RATES

GROUP BOOKING	FAMILY BOOKINGS
1 player $155	1 child $155
2-5 players $150 (ea)	2 children $150 (ea)
6 or more players $145 (ea)	3 or more children $145 (ea)

If you cannot attend all the camp sessions — use our reduced session rate.

REDUCED SESSION RATES

Group Booking	Attending 5 Days	Attending 4 Days	Attending 3 Days
1 Player	$155	$130	$105
2-5 Players	$150	$125	$100
6 or More	$145	$120	$ 95

Family Booking	Attending 5 Days	Attending 4 Days	Attending 3 Days
1 Child	$155	$130	$105
2 Children	$150	$125	$100
3 plus Children	$145	$120	$ 95

— 20 hours of technical tactical coaching
— Camp T Shirt — Free Drinks

(Note: Group bookings may be made by phone, fax or mail. The discount applied depends on the final number of Application Forms received from the group.

A group of budding stars at a Pacific Umbro Soccer camp location.

AUSTRALIA 3 IRAQ 1

(Continued from front page)

Left back Bobby Hogg swung in a free kick which Richards stretched out to deflect into Iraq's net for the opening goal.

Then an excellent cross by Jimmy Rooney found lanky striker Adrian ('Noddy') Alston climb to score with a looping header over the top of the Iraqi goalkeeper to lift Australia into a clear lead.

Iraq stung back with a goal but Australia recoiled venomously with a second goal from Alston who drove a fierce shot into the target after meeting a dangerous low cross from cultured right-back Dougie Utjesenovic.

Australia's industrious midfield, galvanised by the rock-solid back four of Utjesenovic Manfred Schaefer, Peter Wilson and Hogg, guaranteed a fabulous victory for Rale Rasic's heroes.

The Australian goalkeeper, Ronnie Corry, was very well protected and was never under constant danger.

Australia then travelled to Melbourne for the second leg against Iraq which this time ended in a fierce scoreless draw.

The great Jimmy Fraser made his international debut in this match as goalkeeper for Australia. This lad in the coming months would play a huge part for Australia in getting to her first-ever World Cup Finals the following year in Munich, West Germany.

In Melbourne, the Australians knew they only had to draw to move forward into the next stage and play Iran (home and away), followed by the incredibly tough and very mobile South Koreans.

History records that in a third and deciding clash with the South Koreans played on a neutral venue in Hong Kong, Australia ultimately qualified for the World Cup Finals with a glorious 1-0 win over the giants of Asia via a spectacular 35 metre dipping drive fired by the now Late Jimmy Mackay.

Farina this Saturday, as he leads Australia out onto the ground at Telstra Stadium, will be able to vividly feel the huge nostalgic responsibility on his shoulders as he attempts to emulate the deeds of Australia's legendary 1973 team, in his battle against the same opponent, Iraq.

In 1974 Australia's destiny was Germany.

In 2006 Australia's destiny will be the same.

Australia's Squad: Paul Agostino, John Aloisi, Clint Bolton, Marco Bresciano, Tim Cahill, Scott Chipperfield, Simon Colosimo, Jason Culina, Ahmad Elrich, Brett Emerton, Vince Grella, Zeljko Kalac, Steve Laybutt, Stan Lazaridis, Jon McKain, Ljubo Milicevic, Ante Milicic, Craig Moore, Lucas Neill, Jade North, Tony Popovic, Mark Schwarzer, Josip Skoko, Mile Sterjovski, Danny Tiatto, Tony Vidmar, Luke Wilkshire, David Zdrilic.

Socceroo coach Frank Farina has given the thumbs up to A-League outfit Perth Glory upon his arrival in Western Australia

Farina applauds Perth

Frank Farina dropped by to watch Perth Glory training last week as he looked forward to the Socceroos match against Indonesia in Western Australia later this month.

Farina watched Steve McMahon put his A-League squad through their paces at the Members Equity stadium and insisted he is looking forward for the upcoming Tsunami fundraiser at the Subiaco Oval on March 29.

"Perth has been the leading city in Australia in terms of football over the last five or six years and it is long overdue that we have the national team playing here," Farina said.

"It has been proven with the Glory that the people of Western Australia will come out and watch football and hopefully they will do the same for the national team. Perth Glory have been leading the way since they have been in the league and no one comes near them in terms of their reputation over here, they are well ahead of the game," the national team boss insisted.

Farina was also able to watch one of his key squad members in training, Simon Colosimo along with former Olympic squad member, young defender David Tarka.

"Simon will be an integral part of the national team and it is good that the people of Perth will see one of their team's senior players representing his country in their own city," Farina stressed.

"Young David Tarka is another player earmarked as a potential squad member and the sooner the A-League gets under way the better for football in this country.

"The start of the A-League is very important because we have to get the sport back into the mainstream media, we have to get into peoples faces and hopefully this is something that will be embraced across the country."

The Glory's head coach Steve McMahon was very pleased to be able to meet Farina as he looks to get his team in shape for the A-League season ahead.

McMahon, said: "It is great to have the national team playing in Perth this month and it was fantastic to meet Frank Farina. He said he would keep in touch with us and we will see him again soon because the squad will spend a couple of days here ahead of the game against Indonesia."

KOSSIE'S ADELAIDE READY FOR A-LEAGUE

By Joe Carlucci

The inaugural Hyundai A-League competition is fast approaching, as football fans across the country are licking their lips in anticipation.

Early views shared by the Football public hold Sydney FC, Perth Glory and Melbourne Victory as the teams to lead the way, though one must certainly keep an eye on Adelaide United Adelaide United, coached by NSL veteran and former Socceroo John Kosmina, have a fine mix of experience and youth in their squad along with the expert guidance of Kosmina.

"I'm really happy with the way that the team has worked so far. Since before Christmas we've been working on-and-off, and I am really happy with the workload that we are putting in now," said Kosmina of his squad.

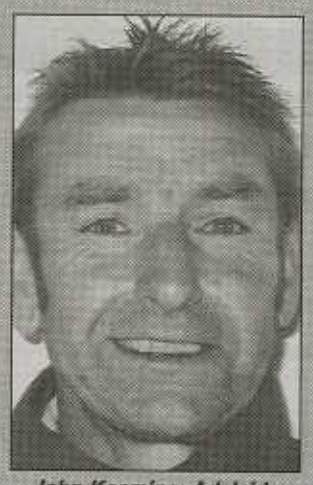
Kosmina, who played for the Socceroos 102 times and scored 45 goals, cannot wait for the competition to commence. Kossie is relishing an opening round clash against a team he coached for three years, Newcastle United (now the Newcastle Jets).

"I've got some fond memories of Newcastle, and some great friends too there, I hope that the people of Newcastle take to the new competition in as much a positive way as possible."

John Kosmina's Adelaide United boast tremendous experience across the park, a true fact when one runs through the names of Aurelio Vidmar, Ross Aloisi, Carl Veart and Angelo Costanzo.

"These are the guys that will lead the squad. All squads need the experienced players to help guide the younger guys in any competition world-wide," added Kosmina.

And it is the younger guys that Kosmina is looking to unleash come May, with the World Club Championship qualifiers. Chad Bugeja is one of these young guns.



John Kosmina: Adelaide United gaffa cannot wait for the commencement of the A-League season

"Chad is a very exciting talent. He played for a local club (White City Woodville SA) last season and did exceptionally well. He is super quick and incredibly powerful, and for a player with his physical prowess, he has a really good touch of skill," said Kosmina.

Another talent to keep an eye on is Michael Matricciani.

"Matricciani is a great young player. He did run into some bad luck with a few injuries and as a consequence didn't get his senior footballing career off to a good start, though he has overcome all that now, and he has the ability to succeed as a professional footballer."

Speaking exclusively to Sydney Football radio program, Sunday Night Soccer, John Kosmina added that Adelaide United had almost certainly wrapped up the transfer of former Parramatta Power midfielder, Travis Dodd, from Greece.

Travis Dodd endured a tough period in Greece at the end of last year when his club, Panionios, was under heavy investigation for match fixing.

"Travis had problems with his club in Greece, as so far as we understand his club have released him and the FFA are now pursuing that release. It has been a chaotic situation, though we hope to have it completely sorted out in time for the World Club Championship qualifying matches".

Kosmina's view for the A-League on the whole also remains very positive.

" I believe that if the process is right, the outcome will be right. We need to be patient. The FFA, in preaching patience, has done the right thing. We know that the football public is out there and that it is very cynical. They need to get out to the matches and get behind the game, and not go out looking for reasons to bring the game down," insisted Kosmina.

Kosmina's comments paint an all too clear picture in Australian Football, a picture of neglect by supporters for the world game.

"This mentality has kept the game floundering. Apart from self-interest in the management and marketing of the game, the public has always been too quick to criticise. And I'm talking from twenty-five years of experience at the highest level."

Sydney readers tune in to Sunday Night Soccer, each Sunday evening from 10:00 pm on 98.5 FM, for the best coverage of local and international issues on the beautiful game.

TIM CAHILL NAMED OCEANIA FOOTBALL CONFEDERATION PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ahead of one of the biggest games of his career, Australian football international Tim Cahill received a boost today when he was named the Oceania Football Confederation Player of the Year for 2004..

Cahill will then head to Australia to take his place in the Australian squad to take on Iraq at Telstra Stadium in Sydney on Saturday 26 March and Indonesia at Subiaco Oval in Perth on Tuesday 29 March.

OFC General Secretary Tai Nicholas said it was due reward for Cahill who left his home in Sydney at the age of 16 to pursue his dream of playing football at the highest level.

"Tim has had a wonderful season and is a deserved winner of the OFC player of the year award," said Mr. Nicholas.

"He is unique in that he has played for two Oceania nations, Western Samoa and Australia at various levels."

"It was a fabulous year for Tim scoring the winner in an FA Cup semi final which has catapulted his career to the next level. He has certainly served as a fantastic role model not just for youngsters in Australia but also in Samoa."

"Tim follows in the footsteps of some greats like Wynton Rufer and Frank Farina in receiving this award."

Mark Schwarzer and Marco Bresciano, Cahill's Australian teamates finished second and third respectively with the Solomon Islands Commins Menapi finishing fourth.

Cahill's 2004 year was full of highlights including an appearance in the English FA Cup Final for his former club Millwall against Manchester United, an international debut for Australia against South Africa and the huge honour of representing his country at the Athens Olympic Games.

His year was capped with a dream move to the English Premier League where he has enjoyed an outstanding season with Everton who are currently running fourth in the standings.

Cahill received nominations from all the national associations that voted.

OFC PLAYER OF THE YEAR WINNERS

1988 - Frank Farina (Australia)
1989 - Wynton Rufer (New Zealand)
1990 - Wynton Rufer (New Zealand)
1991 - Robbie Slater (Australia)
1992 - Wynton Rufer (New Zealand)
1993 - Robbie Slater (Australia)
1994 - Aurelio Vidmar (Australia)
1995 - Christian Karembeu (New Caledonia)
1996 - Paul Okon (Australia)
1997 - Mark Bosnich (Australia)
1998 - Christian Karembeu (New Caledonia)
1999 - Harry Kewell (Australia)
2000 - Mark Viduka (Australia)
2001 - Harry Kewell (Australia)
2002 - Brett Emerton (Australia)
2003 - Harry Kewell (Australia)
2004 - Tim Cahill (Australia)

Tim Cahill: Voted Oceania's Player of the Year for 2004

SEG

PAUL WADE
NATIONAL SOCCER SCHOOLS
Sydney/Newcastle/Wollongong/Melbourne/Brisbane/Gold Coast

COACHES WANTED

Sports Education Group has Coaching Positions Available

All staff receives a professional induction from SEG Legend and former Socceroo Captain, Paul Wade

SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINICS
HEAD START—Advanced Development Program
CLUB SKILLS Coach Education
PRIVATE SCHOOL Team Coaching

APPLICATIONS on line at:
WWW.SPORTSEG.COM.AU
Or Call Head Office on
02 9899 5151 (Sydney) 1300 889 806 (National)

DUSAN PURAC FOOTBALL ACADEMY

World acclaimed for boys and girls
Highly recommended by FIFA
Leading world skilled coach Dusan Purac
MON-FRI 6PM-8PM
SUN 10AM-12NOON
Sydneywide Phone: 9949 5247 ● Mobile 0418 263 644
www.readysetgoal.com.au

ALAGICH'S ANGLE ON YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

No 1 of a Series by Specialist Youth Coach Richard Alagich

The role of the coach

Ok so you have been given the role to coach a team. The first thing that you should know is how to organise a coaching session. Your coaching session should be enjoyable educational.

As a coach you need to achieve several goals with your team. I'll list just a few.

1. First of all make sure you look like a coach. For example have the proper dress code such as being a track suit, having a soccer ball sand shoes or boots. Nothing is worse than to see the kids turn up excited for a training session in their soccer gear with their ball and then to see the coach turn up in work clothes with leather shoes quickly trying to set up and organise the coaching session.

2. Make sure you have the sufficient coaching equipment such as makers, bibs, posts first aid kit, ball pump whistle.

3. Insist that all kids in your team have a soccer ball and arrive with their soccer ball to each and every training session. This way you can organise enjoyable training sessions where everyone is working with the ball. With all your players have a ball they are able to practice on their own or with a friend, the things they have learnt at your sessions.

4. Make the children in your team feel comfortable with the exercises that you are giving them. This means don't treat them as adults and give them exercises that are too hard for their age group.

5. The training sessions must be enjoyable. Keep changing the exercises for each training sessions so that the kids really look forward to your sessions.

6. Don't have kids standing around for long periods of time getting bored waiting to pass the ball or have a shot at goal. If they tend to loose interest in the exercise its time to move on and do something else. Don't be a bad coach and keep on insisting on a point that the players find difficult to understand or practice.

7. Give exercises with good technical information that will help them improve their performance. For example teach them to dribble with their head up. The players will ask why? Tell them its important to have their head up with dribbling or running with the ball because they then have vision and can see who to pass to.

Richard Alagich

8. Always prepare your coaching sessions but remember to always have a spare session in the event of wet weather or if team members are sick.

9. Arrive early to set up the training area with grids marked out, bibs and post in place for the game at the end of the session. You have to be organised so that when the team arrive you are ready to go from the start of the session to the end. There is nothing worse than having the team arrive on time and then to see the coaching running around trying to set up.

10. When you teach the kids a technique or tactic of the game, make sure you can demonstrate correctly so the players can see exactly what you want. Nothing is worse than to see a coach use an incorrect technique when teaching a technical-tactical element. If you are not good at demonstrating the element than get one of the better players to demonstrate.

11. Consider what the average soccer player would like from his or her coach. From research children responded by saying:

- they would like a coach that doesn't yell so much
- a coach that teaches them techniques and tactics
- a coach that lets them express themselves in the game
- a coach that encourages more and does not have favourites

If you keep those points in mind it will mean that the player you are coaching will always look forward to your coaching sessions and games.

Ok so these are just a few points you need to consider before you start.

In my next article I will expand on the question of the period of specialisation.

Richard Alagich

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENT

SOCCER NSW

Easter recess for Premier League

After the exciting finale to the Premiership season, the NSW Premier League enjoys a well-earned recess this Easter weekend.

The competition resumes on the weekend of 2/3 April with the top eight teams in the Championship Group and the bottom eight in the Challenger Group.

There will be seven rounds in each group, with teams playing each other once. Points accumulated in the Premiership season carry over.

The NSW Premier League finals were will feature five teams - the top four of the Championship Group and a 'wild card' for the top team from the Challenger Group.

The Continental Tyres Cup final will be played on Saturday 21 May.

There's plenty of Easter football action in the NSW state leagues. Check **www.soccernsw.com.au** for fixtures and venues.

Continental

A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT TIGERS FOOTBALL CLUB

WESTS ASHFIELD

PROUDLY SPONSOR

Seeks talented & motivated Players, Coaches, Managers in all the following teams U6, U7, U8, U9, U10, U11, U12, U13, U14, U15 & U16
Over 35s and All Age Men's Teams
Girls U10, U12, U14, U16 & Women's All Age Teams

● WANT TO JOIN A CLUB WITH VISION
● THE ONLY CLUB IN THE DISTRICT THAT OFFERS A DIRECT "PATHWAY" INTO THE NSW PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE, THEN CALL THE CLUB'S INFOLINE 9560 5414 NOW!

Please note that all Coaching Applications will be handled discreetly
The club is also seeking a Women's Convenor & Coaching Director for the 2006 Girls U10, U12, U14 & U16 Competitions
As the club is entering teams in the 2006 NSW Women's Premier League
FOR ENQUIRIES PLEASE PHONE THE CLUB'S ADMINISTRATOR – Pia Scarselletta – 9560 5414

A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT TIGERS F.C. INC
FIELDS TEAMS IN THE STATE'S MOST ELITE COMPETITIONS
○ THE NSW PREMIER LEAGUE – First & Reserve Grades
○ THE NSW PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE - U13, U14, U15, U16 & U18s
Players who have the ability to play at First Grade level in the NSW Premier League can direct discreet enquiries to the club's Head Coach — Les De Cells — 9716 1702.
Coaching Applications for the 2006 NSW Premier Youth League Competition are now been considered discreetly via
FAX 9560 5418
INFOLINE: 9560 5414

A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT TIGERS F.C. INC
PARTICIPATES IN THE WORLD'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS YOUTH TOURNAMENT ANNUALLY
THE COPPA CARNEVALE TOURNAMENT IN VIAREGGIO — ITALY
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Are sought from ambitous U17s through to U20s PLAYERS who wish to participate in the
58th Annual Viareggio Tournament — February 2006
(As well as to form the club's 2006 U20s NSW Premier League Squad)

The Viareggio Youth Tournament or 'Coppa Carnevale' is the ultimate youth (U/20s) football competition in the world. Teams like AC Milan, Parma, Juventus, Lazio, Roma, Fiorentina, Bayern Munich, Newcastle United and Manchester United participate every year in the prestigious 'Coppa Carnevale' tournament. The Viareggio tournament generates a great deal of media interest both nationally and internationally.
Italian sports daily newspapers like *The Gazzetta dello Sport* and Italian sports television stations cover most games. The tournament also generates a great deal of European Club interest as European clubs send their scouts to all games.
Absolute confidentiality will be preserved.

For further information and enquiries call John Romeo, Technical Director of the A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Youth Football Academy on 0412-808-114

Strong Australia ticket sales for Iraq clash

Ticket sales for the historic Australia clash with Iraq in Sydney on Easter Saturday are strongly increasing.

After a slow start to ticket sales, over 20,000 tickets have been bought for the match at Telstra Stadium. The FFA are banking on a crowd of between 30,000 to 35,000 to impress Asian Confederations chiefs who are guest attendees. The Iraq and Australian squads will arrive on Thursday in Sydney on a special chartered flight from London via Dubai.

Traditionally Australian football supporters purchase tickets on match day, and with the Sydney Easter Show being held during the day a big turn up is expected for the Saturday night clash.The local Iraqi community will also attend in large numbers with Sydney having the largest Iraqi community in Australia. Australia coach Frank Farina has a full 28-man squad to choose from minus only injured strikers Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell and defender Kevin Muscat. The Matildas will be playing in a curtain raiser at 4pm with the Socceroos kicking off at 7pm eastern time.

FOR THE COACH

Book No 1: Soccer: Winning Through Technique and Tactics
Reviews
"No doubt that this well-thought out and illustrated handbook will prove to be a great help for theoretical and practical training ... We warmly recommend (this book) to every football fan..."
from the forward of current FIFA President, JS Blatter.
"We have studied this publication with great interest. (it) can be recommended especially to active youth coaches, be they professionals or amateurs.
Walter Gagg, Head of Technical Department, FIFA.

Book No 2: Soccer: Winning Through Planning and Testing
"This teaching manual by Richard Alagich is an excellent working tool for use in the practical side of football training. All age groups of youth football are taken into account making the reader immediately aware that the author is fully conversant with the most modern training methods.
Jurg Nepfer Head of the Development department and Director of the Goal Project, FIFA.
"This work re-nominates Richard Alagich as one of the most perceptive and judicious development coaches in our midst.
Any coach of young players, with an earnest desire to fashion winning teams, cannot be without this book."
Les Murray, Director of Sport, SBS Television

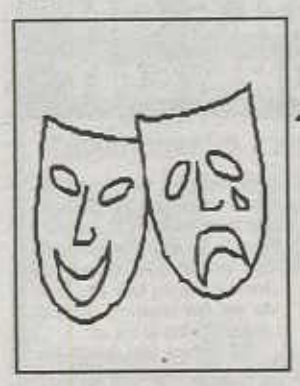
Mail or fax your order today Please print clearly:
Name: .....
Address: .....
State: ..... Postcode: ..... Tel: .....

Qty	Title	RRP A$	AUS RRP A$
	Book 1 Soccer: Winning through Technique and Tactics	29.95	A$
	Book 2 Soccer: Winning through Planning and Testing	29.95	$
	Subtotal		$
	Add $10.00 Postage & Handling		$
	Add $10.00 Postage & Handling		$10.00
	TOTAL		$

RRP= Recommended Retail Price

Please tick if you require a personalised autographed copy ☐
Payment details: (please tick) I enclose payment now by:
☐ Cheque ☐ Money Order ☐ Mastercard ☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa
Card number
Expiry Date:
Card Holders Name .....
Amount $ .....
Signature .....

Mail: Pacific Soccer PO Box 239, Manly NSW Australia 2095
Fax: (02) 9977 0376 Tel: (02) 9977 2992
Thank you for your order.
Please make sure that you have enclosed payment with your order
www.pacificsoccer.com.au — info@pacificsoccer.com.au



from the dressing sheds

by Mark Stavroulakis

Stars may pay their way

United Kingdom-based Australian stars may pay for their own flights from London to Sydney next week rather than join a charter flight bringing both the Australian and Iraqi squads into the country for the symbolic Easter Saturday football international.

The Sydney Morning Herald has reported that Blackburn Rovers' Lucas Neill and Brett Emerton and Everton midfielder Tim Cahill are considering buying their own tickets after being informed by Football Federation Australia they must join the majority of the Socceroos squad for the flight.

At issue for the players, however, is the scheduling of the charter, which left London on Monday night (UK time) and is not due to arrive in Sydney until Wednesday night - 48 hours later than many would arrive on commercial flights, and just 72 hours before the match.

FFA has already made alternative arrangement for four players - Craig Moore, Tony Popovic, Mark Bresciano and Vince Grella - but wants the remaining 19 to stick to the original schedule.

The players' dissatisfaction has been relayed to Australian Professional Footballers' Association chief executive Craig Foster, who told the Sydney Morning Herald: "Nobody is disputing why the charter has been organised, and what the benefits are, but the fact is we could have gone about it differently and still achieved the same outcomes."

Marquee's the word or is it?

Melbourne Victory has one. Sydney FC and the Newcastle United Jets desperately want one.

But as for the remaining six A-League teams, a marquee player is not an option with one club writing them off as over-priced has-beens who alienate other team members.

Under Football Federation Australia (FFA) rules for the new A-League each club is allowed one stand-out marquee player outside the $1.5 million salary cap.

The sky, or the budget, is the limit when it comes to paying the player, with some predicting they could earn six times that of their teammates.

But the lure of having a big name on the squad list hasn't really taken off with Melbourne Victory the only club to make a marquee signing in Archie Thompson, a surprise omission from this month's squad to play Iraq.

Former Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke is the most high profile marquee target with Sydney FC making no apologies for wanting such a name to help it flourish in the highly competitive Sydney football market.

But after months of arm wrestling, the deal with the Trinidad and Tobago international seems far-off with coach Pierre Littbarski giving it a "50-50" chance of success.

The hunt for former Socceroo captain Paul Okon's signature continues at the Newcastle United Jets, but is looking unlikely with his Belgian club refusing to release him in time for the World Club Championship qualifiers in May.

But as for Adelaide United, the New Zealand Knights, Central Coast Mariners, Perth Glory and the Queensland Roar, the marquee option is off the table.

The Roar initially held lukewarm interest in a marquee player, but spokesman Peter Meares said coach Miron Bleiberg was bone cold on the idea.

"Miron doesn't have any faith in them, he thinks you pay too much money for a has-been," Meares said.

"At this stage he has got no intention of seeking one out. He hasn't seen anyone he would really want to get for the money. I was quite surprised but he wants to build a champion team, rather than a team of champions."

The Mariners chief executive officer Lyall Munro says a marquee signing would go against his team's philosophy and dampen team spirit.

"I can understand a Sydney crowd with their ethos and sporting psychology wanting to have a Dwight Yorke on the park but in our area I doubt whether it's going to be a point of difference at all," Munro said.

"We also didn't want to stand someone out. We just wanted a cohesive 20 and if we were to bring a Dwight Yorke for example in we would have felt that that might have been seen as some ways a comment on the rest of the players."

Perth Glory boss Jeff Dennis said his side didn't need a marquee player.

"We just don't think a marquee player is required. We believe we have got the right level of playing staff (and) we are also being a little cautious regarding the season to ensure we meet budget."

Dwight Yorke: The Trinidad & Tobago star's intended move to Sydney FC seems to be at a standstill

Football Federation Australia head of operations Matt Carroll wouldn't say whether he was concerned about the lack of marquee signings, saying instead it was a decision for each club.

"That's a choice by the clubs ... some of them aren't going to sign a marquee player and that's their choice," Carroll said.

Victory confirm their plans

Melbourne Victory spokesman Tony Ising confirmed that a decision on the club's home ground and new player signings were very close.

"As far as the venue is concerned, we've said all along that we'll take as long as necessary to ensure we get the best deal for the club and the fans. However I really don't think we're too far away from making a decision."

In the past week the club has made an offer to a player in the Victorian Premier League, progressed talks with two Australians playing in Europe, and commenced discussions with a European player currently playing in the UEFA Cup.

"It's looking very positive on the playing front," said Ising "We're delighted with the way the squad is coming together, and we certainly haven't finished yet. We look forward to a number of significant announcements in the coming weeks."

Ising was unconcerned about the league transfer deadline which passed on Tuesday, revealing that the club had identified the issue with the FFA last year and led the call for exceptional circumstances to be granted in the Hyundai A-League's inaugural season.

"It's simply not an issue for us," Ising said. "All clubs had the opportunity to apply to the FFA for exceptional circumstances, given that almost every club was faced with the prospect of building an entire playing roster from scratch. I don't think there are too many 'exceptional circumstances' in world football more exceptional than that."

"This was discussed with the FFA in an open forum with all the other clubs present," said Ising. "Again, this is yet another example of Melbourne Victory preparing our squad in a strategic and professional manner in order to achieve long term success."

QU SIGNS FOR ADELAIDE

Shanghai Shenhua striker Qu Shengqing has joined A-League side Adelaide United on loan.

Qu, who was close to joining former China boss Arie Haan at Sydney FC, signed a one-year deal with the South Australia side on Saturday.

Adelaide originally wanted the 29-year-old striker on a free loan, but after negotiations with Shenhua, agreed to pay the CSL club AU$30,000 (approx. RMB0.2m).

According to Shanghai Shenhua vice-general manager Dai Chunhua, "Shenhua refused a free loan transfer, because Shenhua is a professional football club. The player's value should be respected. But in order not to create any problems for Qu, we finally agreed to accept a very low amount of money for his loan move to Adelaide.

"Shenhua want him to have the chance to continue playing professional football and maintain his level of form. He could return to Shenhua at some point in the future."

Qu Shengqing was Jia A top scorer in 1999 when Liaoning finished runners-up to Shandong Luneng in their first top-flight season, then made a high-profile move to Shenhua in 2000. But he has failed to make any lasting impact at the club, playing second fiddle to Saul Martinez and Zhang Yuning over the past two seasons, before being transfer-listed in January this year.

Qu Shengqing has signed with Adelaide United

Where will Lazaridis go?

WA's greatest player, Stan Lazaridis, will be torn between two cities when he eventually returns to finish his career in the new Australian A-League.

Lazaridis has always maintained he'd see out his playing days in Australia as a mark of appreciation to the fans who had followed his career.

But Perth Glory fans hoping to see the Socceroo wearing the purple and orange of his hometown club might be disappointed because of the midfielder's strong links to Adelaide.

Lazaridis' wife, Mary, is from the city of churches and his career blossomed when he joined West Adelaide in the National Soccer League.

Lazaridis admitted it would not be easy choosing a port of call when his time in England was at an end. "I've got a strong pull towards Adelaide and the people there see me as an Adelaide boy," he said.

"But I would love to play in front of the Perth crowd. We'll just have to wait and see who's in charge at the time and what players the managers want. It will be close between the two." The 32-year old, voted WA's greatest player by a panel of judges last week, will return to Perth at the end of the month as part of the Australian squad to play Indonesia on 29th March at Subiaco Oval.

McKinna wants success: 3-year plans are cop-out

A buoyant Central Coast Mariners coach Lawrie McKinna says he wants his team to be successful from day one. "I've been over here 19 years, and I've never had facilities like this," he told the Sydney Morning Herald.

"The whole set-up, for training, for playing, is absolutely first-class. "We want to be successful from day one.

"Three-year plans? That's a cop-out. We want to be challenging in year one, in year two and in year three. Everyone here knows how important it is to get off to a good start."

McKinna's Mariners are also banking on a unified local football community after they and the Central Coast Soccer Association saved the region's NSW Premier League team, Central Coast United, from financial trouble. Mariners CEO Lyall Gorman explained:

"Was it a good financial decision to bail them out? No. Was it the right thing to do? Absolutely, yes. Together with the CCSA we've managed to preserve the pathway. It's our statement that we're here to support football on the coast in every way we can."

For the good of the game

What a week it was for NSW Premier League sides Sydney United and Bonnyrigg White Eagles.

As most of you are aware, both teams were involved in one of the biggest ever crowd disturbances in Sydney two weeks ago at Edensor Park when rival fans clashed with each other as ethnic tensions rose between Croatians and Serbians.

Unfortunately football was the loser on this event as highlights of fans throwing flares, rocks and poles were beamed live across Australia and in some parts of the world.

Greece's Antenna Pacific also got their hands on a copy of the fracas that set the tone for a heated meeting between both parties at an extraordinary meeting at Soccer NSW headquarters.

The outcome of the meeting was that Soccer NSW have hired Stepan Kerkyasharian, chief executive of the NSW Community Relations Commission to oversee the ugly events that occurred two weeks ago.

Soccer NSW President Tom Doumanis addressed the meeting and stated to the press:

"The calibre of these eminent people and their independence shows that we mean what we say.

"Soccer NSW wants to get to the bottom of the crowd disturbances and make sure they never happen again."

The board of Soccer NSW decided last week that all matches between Sydney United and Bonnyrigg White Eagles for the remainder of the 2004-05 season would be played at a neutral venue under conditions determined by Soccer NSW.

"Soccer NSW will choose the neutral venues and the conditions under which matches will be staged in co-ordination with NSW Police.

"This interim measure was urgently needed to allow the competition to proceed. The board's decision does not constrain the independent investigation panel in any way," Doumanis stated.

Word has it that fans could also be excluded from their next meeting which means that the players themselves plus selected relatives and friends will be the only ones attending the game.

The unfortunate scenes between rival fans have not stopped however with an alarming increase in verbal assaults in the Fairfield based area.

Fans from each sides have bombarded their respective forums about the possibilities of meeting each other at undisclosed venues.

Also racial slurs have marred these websites which have been put on high alert by their moderators.

Whatever the case this incident has certainly scarred the game of football.

The NSW Premier League season has been at its best since its introduction at the start of the year.

Players and clubs have been at their very best in promoting the game in this state.

Hands down, the league itself portrays as being the best state competition compared to the rest in Australia.

Let us hope that these scenes that have been labelled as ugly cease to continue in our game.

Fair is fair, its always great to see fans support their clubs with pride and passion, but violence is certainly once aspect the game does not need.

The game in Australia does not need these kind of incidents.

With the A-League kicking off in August it is something that the competition itself would like to bypass.

It was sad to see mainstream newspapers and radio stations plus the TV push this incident into their prime spot.

Its still the same old story it seems, when things are firing for the game of football, we'd be lucky to make a page or two in a paper or even hit the news.

But when incidents such as the Edensor Park scene appear, then everyone feasts on the game.

SOCCER NSW LIFTOUT

DEMONS DO IT AGAIN

By Greg Stock

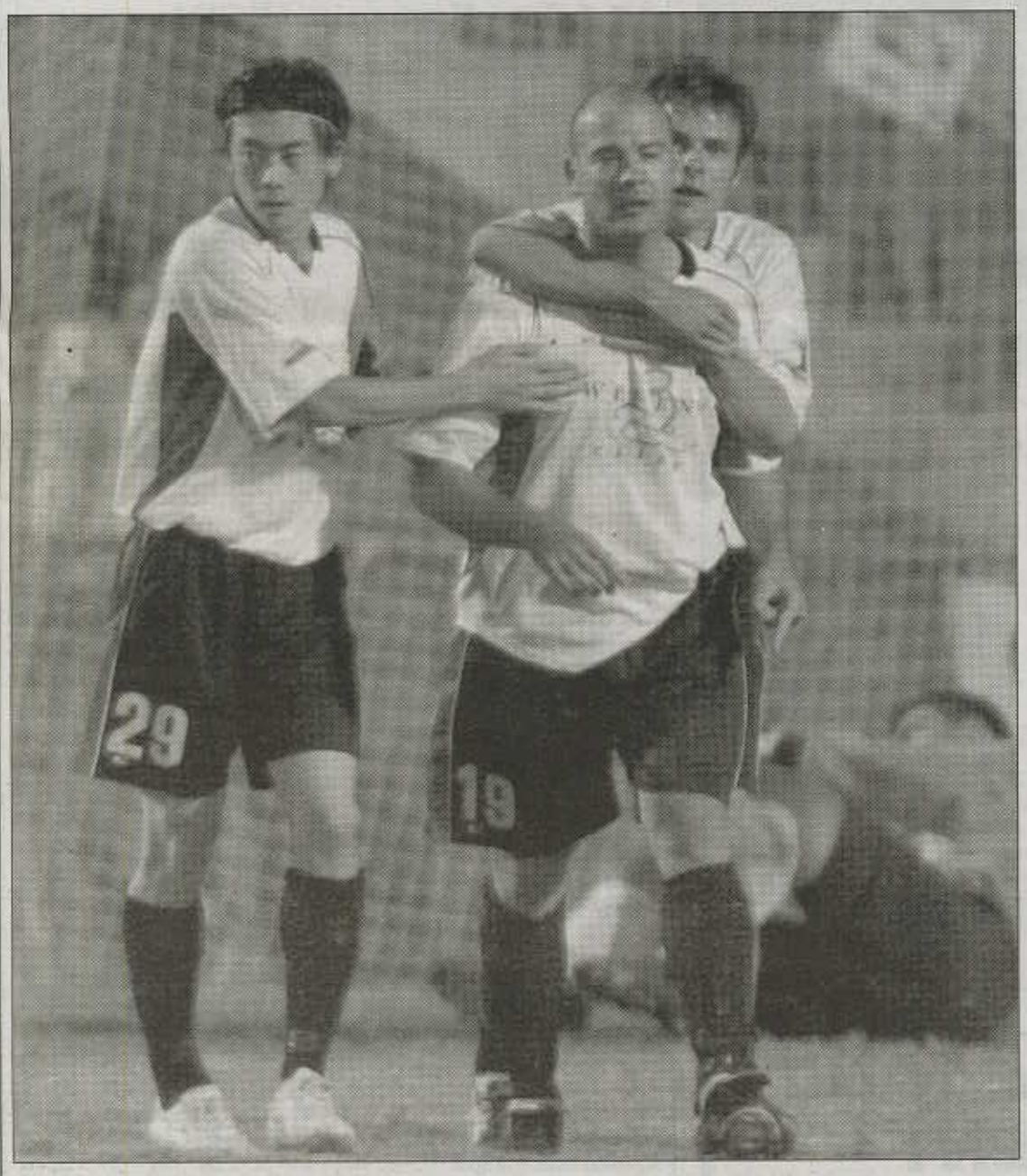
Blacktown City walked away with their third premiership trophy in six years and a cheque for $35,000 after an anti-climactic finale to the first round of the New South Wales Premier League season.

The Demons snuck home against former National league champions Wollongong Wolves 2-1 on the back of a 61st minute Jason Connolly strike, which saw them beat off the challenge from Bonnyrigg and Sydney United.

After knocking off Sydney United from top spot the week before, a lethargic Bonnyrigg flopped in front of a packed home crowd to top four aspirants Rockdale City Suns at the Serbian Centre. Despite Guinean born midfielder Balla Conde rattling the woodwork with the last kick of the match, the Suns held out to leave the White Eagles in second spot after the scoreless draw.

Across town at St. George Stadium Sydney Unitedís disappointing end to their first round saw them play out a nil-all draw with Saints to see them slip to third spot. After leading the competition for 13 of the 15 rounds, the league's most experienced side fell at the final hurdle, leaving coach Zlatko Arambasic to ponder what might have been.

The enigmatic Sydney Olympic side scraped into seventh spot after thumping Parramatta Eagles 3-0. Olympic join United as the only two former National league teams in the top eight, with Marconi and Wollongong Wolves relegated to the bottom eight, where theyíll need to finish ninth to be granted a wild card into the final series.



Blacktown City Demons players Naoki Imaya (left) Jason Connelly (front) and Adam Kwasnik (far right) celebrated the club's third Premiership trophy in six seasons

STEADY REDDY GOES

Liam Reddy

Sydney United coach Zlatko Arambasic has released A-League bound goalkeeper Liam Reddy on the eve of the club's first Continental Cup assignment against last year's winners Sydney Crescent Star this Wednesday night.

In the second of two matches to be played at historic Lidcombe Oval, Arambasic will pin his faith in 20-year old Mathew Cox as he seeks to regroup his team after allowing the premiership trophy to slip from their grasp.

"We will definitely be playing our best eleven and Mathew (Cox) will be a part of the side" said Arambasic. "We have been disappointing in recent weeks and have lacked that bit of mongrel so we need to get our hunger back and show the league we mean business."

In a night of firsts at Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney Olympic will play the first Soccer New South Wales sanctioned state league match at that venue when they host Marconi in a difficult Continental Cup tie on Wednesday night.

In a sign of things to come the neutral venue heads a list of possible locations for final series matches, boasting premium seating for over 5,000 people and a first class playing surface.

ROBBIE SLATER RETURNS...FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

Former Socceroo midfielder Robbie Slater will return to football as a guest player for Manly United F.C. this Friday night when they take on Sydney F.C. in the first match for the new A-League club.

Slater has agreed to come out of retirement for one last appearance in the friendly and will headline the match against former Socceroo team mates Steve Corica David Zdrilic and Clint Bolton.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE HEADLINES

- Sutherland back on top after nine years
- Three sent off at Fraser Park, two more at Arlington Oval
- Five teams unbeaten, but reigning champs still winless
- Macarthur grabs first win

WOMEN

- Bathurst, Macarthur and Marconi set the pace
- Two hat-trick heroines as Saints score eleven
- Import gives Sydney Uni victory over UNSW in university derby

SEE PAGE 15 FOR MORE DETAILS

WRITERS: Greg Stock, Paul Goodwin
PRODUCTION: Mary Quartly, Adrian Warren
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: Kyle Patterson
PHOTOGRAPHY: Carlos Furtado
● *All information is courtesy of SOCCER NSW*
SOCCER NSW
Valentine Sport Park
235-257 Meurants Lane,
GLENWOOD NSW 2768
Phone: (02) 8814 4400
website: www.soccernsw.com.au

...INSIDE...

● NSW Premier League News 9
● Premier League Results, Tables & Stats 10
● NSW Premier League Reports 11-13
● Premier State & Youth Results & Tables 14
● Winter Super League 15
● Continental Tyres Cup Preview & Futsal Award Photos 16

Photographs used in these pages are the copyright of SOCCER NSW
To purchase any photos, please email info@soccernsw.com.au

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

AT A GLANCE

ST GEORGE 0
SYDNEY UNITED 0

Sydney United finished the first round in a disappointing third spot after leading the competition for all bar the final two weeks. Dropping Labinot Haliti and Liam Reddy for the final round, United were held to a scoreless draw by St. George who finished eighth after drawing their last three matches.

PARRAMATTA 0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3

Parramatta Eagles dreams of a top eight spot were unceremoniously ended by Sydney Olympic who dished out a 3-0 thumping to claim seventh spot on the table. The Eagles finished the match with ten men after midfielder Richie Cardozo was sent off late in the match for two yellow cards.

BLACKTOWN 2
WOLLONGONG 1

Blacktown City claimed their third premiership in the last six seasons after sinking former National League club Wollongong Wolves 2-1. Substitute Jason Connolly delivered the winner in the 61st minute, sending the premiership trophy and a cheque for $35,000 the Demons way.

BLUE DEVILS 5
A.P.I.A. LEICHHARDT 1

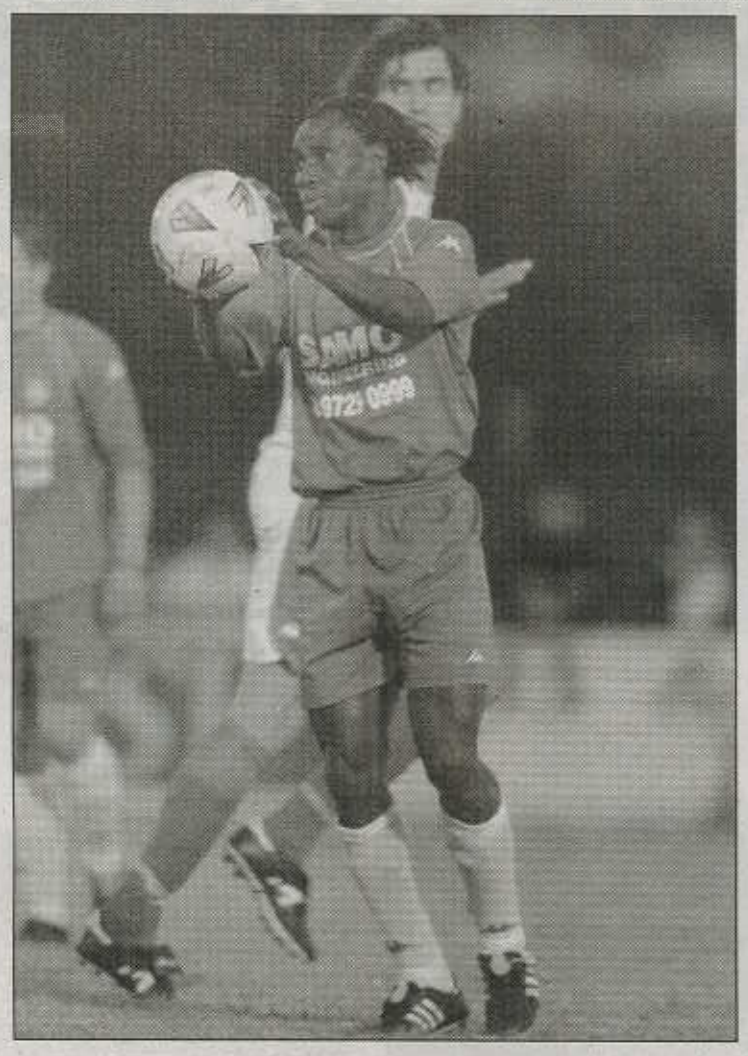
The Blue Devils scored their biggest win of the season with a 5-1 win over A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers at the Belconnen Soccer Centre.

The travelling band of A.P.I.A. supporters targeted striker Danny Macor with chants of "Number 10 is fat and slow", but it was Macor who had the last laugh, scoring his 50th and 51st goals for the club, including one from the penalty spot.

BONNYRIGG 0
ROCKDALE 0

Bonnyrigg allowed the premiership trophy to slip from their grasp after Rockdale held them to a scoreless draw at the Serbian Centre.

Guinean born midfielder Balla Conde had the best chance of the match to snatch a win when he thundered a free kick into the post with literally the last kick of the game, but the ball failed to cross the line, leaving the White Eagles stranded in second spot.



Bonnyrigg White Eagles star Ballamadou Conde probably wished he could have used his hands to score the goal that would've given his team the Premiership

CENTRAL COAST 1
MARCONI 2

Former National league giants Marconi won their first match since January 22nd when they came from behind to defeat the Central Coast 2-1 at Pluim Park.

On loan Empoli striker Frank Lagana scored the winner four minutes from time that leaves the Stallions in the bottom eight, still fighting tooth and nail to avoid relegation.

PENRITH NEPEAN 2
MANLY 2

Penrith Nepean United and Manly United F.C. played out an entertaining 2-2 draw at Cook Park, St. Marys. With both sides locked in a bitter struggle inside the bottom eight, the 'six point' game produced a number of exciting moments.

BANKSTOWN 4
SYDNEY CRESCENT STAR 1

Bankstown City Lions finished the first round in fourth spot after putting relegation bound Sydney Crescent Star to the sword 4-1 at Jensen Park.

For more reports on last weekend's NSW Premier League matches click on to www.soccernsw.com.au/nswpl

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE
LOCAL·VOCAL·TRIBAL

ROUND 15A RESCHEDULED

GRADE 20: Sydney United 0 AIS 2.

ROUND 15 RESULTS

FIRST GRADE: Belconnen Blue Devils 5 (A Castro 21', R Cattanach 22', D Macor 29/68 D Wells 48') **A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1** (S La Rocca 16'), **Bankstown City Lions 4** (D Severino 39/73', M Borg 46', S Babic 51') **Sydney Crescent Star 1**(V Kir 23'), **Blacktown City Demons 2** (A Kwasnik 13', J Connolly 61') **Wollongong Wolves 1** (S McGirr 51'), **Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0 Rockdale City Suns 0, St George Saints 0 Sydney United 0, Central Coast United 1** (M Prentice 38') **Marconi Stallions 2** (B Maloney 74', F Lagana 86'), **Penrith Nepean United 2** (G McPherson 49', R Noble 83') **Manly United FC 2** (J Monie 17', O Dincer 79'), **Parramatta Eagles 0 Sydney Olympic 3** (T Elrich 51', G Owens 89/91').

GRADE 20: Belconnen Blue Devils 0 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 2 (J Dierkes 34', L Drake 49'), **Bankstown City Lions 3** (D Kluet 1', R Iredale 12/59') **Sydney Crescent Star 1** (E Ala 39'), **Blacktown City Demons 0 Wollongong Wolves 1** (L Borne 74'), **Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3** (A Dizdaric 30', N Zonjic 60', D Drca 70') **Rockdale City Suns 0, St George Saints 0 Sydney United 0, Central Coast United 0 Marconi Stallions 1** (T Buyukkopru 75'), **Penrith Nepean United 2** (D Storey 72', J Long 80m) **Manly United FC 2** (S Teglini 7', I Church 43'), **Parramatta Eagles 3** (J Trifiro 9', Own Goal 10', J Rioseco 25') **Sydney Olympic 3** (S Baveas 52', M Hilton 88', W Hijazi 90').

TOP GOALSCORERS

15 Adam Kwasnik (BCD),
11 Nick Bosevski (RCS),
Robbie Cattanach (BD),
8 Peter Haynes (CCU), Pablo Cardozo (SU)
7 Labinot Haliti (SU), Tallan Martin (BWE), Shane McGirr (WW)
6 Ilija Prenzoski (CCU/RCS), Tony Faria (BCD), Steve Karavatakis (SCS/PE)

FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Blacktown City Demons	**15**	**10**	**2**	**3**	**32**	**26**	**6**	**32**
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	15	9	3	3	30	16	14	30
Sydney United	15	7	6	2	33	20	13	27
Bankstown City Lions	15	7	6	2	20	16	4	27
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	15	7	4	4	14	16	-2	25
Rockdale City Suns	15	6	5	4	25	22	3	23
Sydney Olympic	15	6	3	6	24	19	5	21
St George Saints	15	5	5	5	24	20	4	20
Blue Devils	15	4	6	5	30	26	4	18
Parramatta Eagles	15	5	2	8	20	30	-10	17
Marconi Stallions	15	3	7	5	22	23	-1	16
Wollongong Wolves	15	4	4	7	18	24	-6	16
Manly United FC	15	3	7	5	17	25	-8	16
Penrith Nepean United	15	4	4	7	24	33	-9	16
Central Coast United	15	4	3	8	25	21	4	15
Sydney Crescent Star	15	1	3	11	20	41	-21	4

1 Sydney Crescent Star adjusted -2 points

GRADE 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	**16**	**13**	**0**	**3**	**35**	**16**	**19**	**39**
Sydney Olympic	16	10	4	2	40	21	19	34
Australian Institute of Sport	15	11	0	4	36	15	21	33
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	15	9	2	4	35	17	18	29
Sydney United	15	8	3	4	32	15	17	27
Manly United FC	16	8	3	5	26	24	2	27
Wollongong Wolves	15	8	2	5	26	22	4	26
Central Coast United	16	7	4	5	26	24	2	25
Penrith Nepean United	16	6	5	5	30	27	3	23
Parramatta Eagles	16	7	2	7	28	25	3	23
Blacktown City Demons	16	6	3	7	28	34	-6	21
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	15	4	2	9	17	32	-15	14
Blue Devils	16	3	5	8	20	41	-21	14
St George Saints	15	2	7	6	20	29	-9	13
Bankstown City Lions	16	3	3	10	19	32	-13	12
Rockdale City Suns	16	2	2	12	18	34	-16	8
Sydney Crescent Star	16	1	3	12	14	42	-28	5

1 Sydney Crescent Star adjusted -1 point

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENT

EASTER RECESS FOR PREMIER LEAGUE

After the exciting finale to the Premiership season, the NSW Premier League enjoys a well-earned recess this Easter weekend.

The competition resumes on the weekend of 2/3 April with the top eight teams in the Championship Group and the bottom eight in the Challenger Group.

There will be seven rounds in each group, with teams playing each other once. Points accumulated in the Premiership season carry over.

The NSW Premier League finals will feature five teams - the top four of the Championship Group and a 'wild card' for the top team from the Challenger Group.

The Continental Tyres Cup final will be played on Saturday 21 May.

There's plenty of Easter football action in the NSW state leagues.
Check **www.soccernsw.com.au** for fixtures and venues.

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ACTION

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE
LOCAL·VOCAL·TRIBAL

BLACKTOWN FINISH FIRST

The celebrations went on well into the night at the Demons Sports Club last Saturday night when Blacktown City Demons won the NSW Premier League premiership by beating Wollongong Wolves 2-1 at the Fairfax Community Stadium.

Goals to Adam Kwasnik and Jason Connolly were enough to secure the three points, but City and its supporters had to wait for an anxious eight minutes after referee Simon Micallef had blown for full time.

Pre-match joint leaders Bonnyrigg White Eagles were still locked in battle with Rockdale City Suns and an eternity seemed to pass before the thumbs up were given, signalling a home draw for Bonnyrigg and Blacktown's third premiership in six years.

And what a premiership it is, with the four ex-NSL clubs added to the league and an abundance of quality players throughout the competition.

It has been one of the tightest trials of strength in years.

"I wasn't shocked at winning the premiership," said City coach Brian Brown, "I knew that if we kept our heads over the last few weeks then Bonnyrigg and Sydney United would slip up. It's very fitting to win it at home against an ex-NSL team and in front of our own supporters" Brown added

"John Crawley and Damien Foxe were outstanding in tonight's game and Kwasnik always looked dangerous, he's such a natural goal scorer".

The game itself was a tight affair, the Wolves belying their position in the bottom eight by putting up stern opposition, particularly midfielder Mineo Bonetig and keeper Scott Whalan.

The Wolves custodian made an outstanding point-blank save from a Kwasnik header in the 11th minute and followed it up by denying City's Luke Roodenburg a minute later.

He couldn't do much in the 13th minute though, when Josh Maguire floated in a measured cross for Golden Boot winner Kwasnik to hit the net for the 15th time this season.

Blacktown's joint G&S Removals Man-of-the-Match winners, central defender Foxe and goalkeeper Crawley, were kept on their toes by a lively Wolves performance from Adam Hughes and Bonetig. A full-length, diving Crawley just prevented a Bonetig effort in the 26th minute from hitting the target.

Wolves coach Adrian "Noddy" Alston hit the right buttons at half time as the visitors resumed after the break with a renewed purpose and hit a deserved equaliser in the 51st minute following a long, high ball deep into the City defence. Nimble work from Shane McGirr outwitted his adversaries and ended with his shot nestling in the back of the net.

The Wolves followed up with more pressure on the premiers-elect, this time from Hughes, but Crawley was more than equal to the task, beating away his one-on-one attempt.

The follow-up effort from Michael Clare was also dealt with by the indomitable Crawley. The Demons fought back to regain the ascendancy and were rewarded in the 61st minute with what turned out to be the premiership winning goal after another raid down the left flank.

Tony Faria was at the end of a smart build up and his cross was firmly headed home by Connolly, the heavy-set striker making a habit of hitting all-important headers for City.

Important saves were also the order of the day when Crawley again earned his wages in the 64th minute, snuffing out a golden chance from Clare. Not to be outdone, Whalan also showed his worth at the other end of the pitch when he pulled off another blinding save, this time from Faria in the 69th minute.

In the end it was the experience and never-say-die attitude of the Demons that, once again, not only got them over the line in this free-flowing match, but also brought the title back to Western Sydney.

The last word goes to coach Brown.

"Winning the league is always, for me, the most important part of the competition, but we are only half way there to having a really successful season and I'm hopeful that the second part will be as good as the first".

BLACKTOWN CITY DEMONS: J.Crawley; D.Foxe; P.Karbon; L.Roodenburg (B.Dragas 61); I.Ferguson (K.Rastall 28); T.Faria; N.Imaya; S.Petrie; J.Maguire; J.Connolly (S.Kayes 86); A.Kwasnik. Subs not used – B.Crane; D.Falcon; A.Martino; B.Maroney.

WOLLONGONG WOLVES: S.Whalan; G.Souris; R.Cazzolli; A.Hughes; D.Kerr; M.Bonetig; C.Martin; P.Gaffney (M.Clare 51); B.Blake; M.Prentice (D.McDonald 70). Subs not used – N.Hughes; T.Diaz.

Scorers: Blacktown: Adam Kwasnik 13, Jason Connolly 61. Wollongong: Shane McGirr 51.

Yellow Cards:- Blacktown: Stewart Petrie 3, Paul Karbon 44. Wollongong: Nil. Red Cards - Nil.

Referee: Simon Micallef

OWENS SHOOTS DOWN EAGLES

By Paul Goodwin

Parramatta Eagles	**0**
Sydney Olympic	**3**

Sydney Olympic striker Greg Owens produced a scintillating display at Melita Stadium to help his team secure a top eight spot and deny Parramatta Eagles the same status.

In the second half, Owens scored twice and set up the third goal in Olympic's 3-0 win, which ended the Eagles' brave attempt to make a final lunge into the top eight.

Having won their previous three games, Parramatta looked a very real chance of leapfrogging Olympic into the top eight section before the cut-off. The Eagles just could not break down a well-disciplined Olympic backline that knew a point would be enough to make the eight and saw to it that risk-taking was kept to a minimum.

The midfield played its part too, snuffing out the danger of Richie Cardozo, who was sent off near the end, and Ben Delicata. Michael Brown though, was given plenty of room to roam and worked tirelessly trying to fashion openings for Andy Kane and Steve Karavatakis

When they moved forward, Olympic kept the Eagles' defenders busy through Marino Musumeci on the right and Zenon Caravella on the left, who had the home side's flankers on the back foot.

After a very tight first half Olympic coach Mike Urukalo told his men to keep doing their job.

"I told them that they already had the point they needed and they had to make sure they didn't give any away," Urukalo said. "It was up to them not to do that and they showed me tremendous commitment, especially the mostly young players in the team.

"Greg Owens was sensational today."

The visitors hit the front in the 51st minute with what many home supporters would describe as a 'soft' goal.

Angelo Petratos, otherwise defending with such authority, gave away a free kick out wide on the left.

Owens moved the ball forward a few yards and then lifted it cleverly to the far post where a group of Eagles' defenders chose to leave it to one another - and talented keeper Peter Munsie - to clear the danger.

Munsie could not claim the ball and Tarek Elrich was able to get in an unchallenged glancing header at the far post.

The Eagles' keeper had been responsible for a string of first half saves that kept his side in the game, brilliantly tipping over efforts from Musumeci and Elrich.

Parramatta looked sharper after Ben Gough came on to add extra man-power to the attack and it needed a great saving header inside the Olympic box by Matt Gordon to keep the visitors in front in the 82nd minute.

Two minutes later a great cross from the right by Karavatakis was there for the taking; but even when keeper Cem Akili could not reach it, the ball went out off the post thanks to a miscued effort by Gough and a defender's timely challenge.

The home team's cause was not aided in the 77th minute, when Cardozo was handed two quick cautions, the second for verbal abuse of the referee as he was about to be substituted.

With only a short time left, Olympic found some space to extend their lead. Gordon fed Musumeci, and a ball to the far post found Owens, whose finish from a very tight angle settled the issue.

Owens had a much easier finish on the stroke of full time to make it 3-0, a result which lifted Olympic into seventh spot and consigned Parramatta to the relegation dog-fight bottom eight section of the Premier League for the rest of the season.

Tarek Elrich opened up the scoring for Olympic with a great header

Greg Owens notched up a double against the Eagles last week

WHO'S HOT: Greg Owens, hampered by injury over much of the season, showed all the fire that made him such a respected member of Olympic's NSL teams of the past.

WHO'S NOT: Steve Karavatakis, a match winner for Parramatta several times in recent weeks had an off day against his former club. Karavatakis was well shackled by the tightly marking Blues defence.

X-FACTOR: The knowledge that they needed only one point and Parramatta Eagles needed two made Olympic's early second half goal so important. Once that first goal had been scored the Eagles had to throw caution to the wind and that is how the last two goals came.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES 0

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 3
(T Elrich 51', G Owens 83', 91')
@Melita Stadium, South Granville.

PARRAMATTA EAGLES:
Coach: Trevor Morgan
Formation: 3-5-2

Line-up: Peter Munsie – John Kelso, Angelo Petratos, Nicholas McInerney - Matthew Clowes, Ben Delicata (C), Michael Brown, Richie Cardozo, Nathan Rivera (Ben Gough 68) - Andy Kane (Michael Dowling 80), Steve Karavatakis
Subs not used: Stuart Page, Michael Mouyis, Daniel Wilkinson

SYDNEY OLYMPIC:
Coach: Mike Urukalo
Formation: 4–4-2
Line-up: Cem Akili - Damon Collina (C), Peter MacPherson, Dominic Hudap, Shane Lyons (Christian Bottalico 83) – Marino Musumeci, Bishara Stefan (Josh Sama 61, Carlo Musumeci 77), Matt Gordon, Zenon Caravella – Tarek Elrich, Greg Owens
Subs not used: Sam Emmanouil, Arthur Diles
Referee: Srebre Delovski
Assistant Referees: Sandro Perticarini and Alex Danzel
Fourth Official: Brendon Skinner
Red Card: Parramatta Eagles: Richie Cardozo 77
Yellow Cards: Parramatta Eagles: Matthew Clowes 76, Richie Cardozo 77, Sydney Olympic: Tarek Elrich 45, Dominic Hudap 56, Marino Musumeci 66

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE

LOCAL·VOCAL·TRIBAL

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ACTION

SELF DESTRUCTING EAGLES LET TITLE SLIP AWAY

By Greg Stock

Bonnyrigg handed the Premiership trophy to Blacktown City after a disappointing Saturday night's work saw them post a scoreless home draw with Rockdale City Suns.

After a tumultuous week off the park, a bumper crowd packed into the Serbian Centre to watch what appeared to be the club's finest hour, but left disappointed after watching their side self destruct with the finishing line in sight.

"We are devastated," said White Eagles coach John Turner. "No words can describe the empty feeling a game like this can bring."

With seven players out through a combination of injury and suspension, the Bonnyrigg side which took to the park looked a pale shadow of the one which put Sydney United to the sword a week earlier. The usual hard running attacking game which is the cornerstone of all John Turner coached sides was nowhere to be seen, replaced by a cautious and somewhat lethargic version that failed to muster a killer blow.

Despite dominating possession and field position for long periods, Bonnyrigg were denied by some clever Suns defending, masterminded by Richard Plesa and Paul Bilokapic, and some acrobatic goalkeeping from the rapidly improving Steve Minovski.

"It's probably the most chances we have had in any game this year but we couldn't score," said Turner. "I'm sure if we had have scored one, we would have got several but we just couldn't get number one."

WHO'S HOT: Rockdale City Suns coach Ivan Petkovic summed up a sensational performance from midfielder Paul Bilokapic in four simple words "He was absolutely outstanding."

WHO'S NOT: The Bonnyrigg dressing room looked more like a hospital casualty ward with seven scratchings and a number of starters who really shouldn't have taken to the field. Sadly their lack of condition told the story as they struggled to live up to their usual attacking form, allowing Blacktown City to sneak through and claim the premiership trophy.

X-FACTOR: Suns goalkeeper Steve Minovski has come on in leaps and bounds since gaining the number one shirt from the injured John Perosh. Not only is he keeping the highly talented Ricardo Patrizi anchored to the substitutes bench, but he is showing he can mix it at an elite level, denying the Bonnyrigg attack on a number of occasions with a succession of acrobatic saves.

The closest Bonnyrigg came to netting a winner was with literally the last kick of the game. Stepping up to take a free kick on the edge of the penalty box, Guinean born midfielder Balla Conde slammed his shot into the left hand upright only to see the ball trickle across the goal-line before being bundled to safety by Suns defender Peter Apolevski. Moments earlier, substitute Claudio Oricchio had seen his glancing header sail inches over the bar after beating Minovski, much to the groans of the home fans.

Bonnyrigg White Eagles	0
Rockdale City Suns	0

But with Blacktown City doing the business against Wollongong City to claim their third premiership title in six years, it was a clearly disappointed Turner that faced the media after a fruitless night's work. "To go so close is agonising, but we do have a lot to be proud of," Turner said. "We are unbeaten in nine games and came from the bottom eight at Christmas to challenge for top spot so that's quite an achievement."

Despite being outgunned for the majority of the match, the Suns did have a few bright spots, but a lack of cohesion on the forward line was their Achilles heel. Strikers Nick Bosevski and Ilija Prenzoski were hampered by a lack of service and were easy pickings for David Petrovic and Tafyun Devrimol. Even the normally creative Denis Alilovic was quiet, with only Robbie Gomez representing any real value in attack.

Suns coach Ivan Petkovic was happy with his side's finish to the season.

"Our aim was always to make the top eight and we achieved that," Petkovic said.

"Where we go from here is up to the boys, but there is definitely no side that scares us."

'Heads Up' - Rockdale's Max Sevares (left) watches White Eagles defender David Petrovic and the ball

Bonnyrigg's hot shot scorer Tallan Martin (right) battles with Rockdale's Denis Alilovic during last weekend's match at the Serbian Centre

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES 0

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS 0

@Serbian Centre, Bonnyrigg.

BONNYRIGG WHITE EAGLES
Coach: John Turner
Formation: 4-4-2
Line-up: Glen Moss – Mathew Hunter, David Petrovic, Tafyun Devrimol, Jack Sobczyk – Michael Hawrysiuk, Joe Bruni, Ballamadou Conde, Milorad Simonovic – Tallan Martin, Tolgay Ozbey (Claudio Oricchio 56').

ROCKDALE CITY SUNS
Coach: Ivan Petkovic
Formation: 4-4-2
Line-up: Steven Minovski – Scott Baillie, Richard Plesa, Peter Apolevski, Tony Ju – Max Sevares (Ryan Jones 71'), Paul Bilokapic, Denis Alilovic, Robbie Gomez – Nick Bosevski (Cameron Jones 67'), Ilija Prenzoski.
Yellow Cards: Ozbey (BWE) 26' Hunter (BWE) 72' Bilokapic (RCS) 74' Plesa (RCS) 86' Prenzoski (RCS) 88'Moss (BWE) 92+'
Referee: Peter Vrtkovski
Assistant Referees: Adel Soliman and Gareth Askham
Fourth Official: Peter Apostolou

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE ACTION

BATTLING SAINTS HOLD UNITED

St George Saints	0
Sydney United	0

Depleted St George snuffed out Sydney United's slim hopes of winning the Premiership as they held the out of sorts visiting team to a 0-0 draw and forced them to settle for third spot.

After threatening changes to his team following last week's loss to Bonnyrigg, United player-coach Zlatko Arambasic was true to his word, with Liam Reddy and Labinot Haliti, both bound for the Newcastle Jets, left out of the side.

St George, hard hit by injuries and with six regulars unavailable, started the brightest. The first chance of the game fell to John Buonavoglia, whose sharp shot in the seventh minute was quickly tipped over by Reddy's replacement, Mathew Cox.

United replied when a superb pass by Peter Markovic set up Pablo Cardozo in the 18th minute, but Cardozo blasted his shot past the post from a wide angle, with only Andrew Crews to beat.

Two chances in quick succession in the second half could have seen either side take the lead. Firstly, Joe Vrkic headed just over from a corner in the 52nd minute for United, while Kosta Lagoudakis shot wide a minute later after Buonavoglia had set up the chance with a defence-splitting pass.

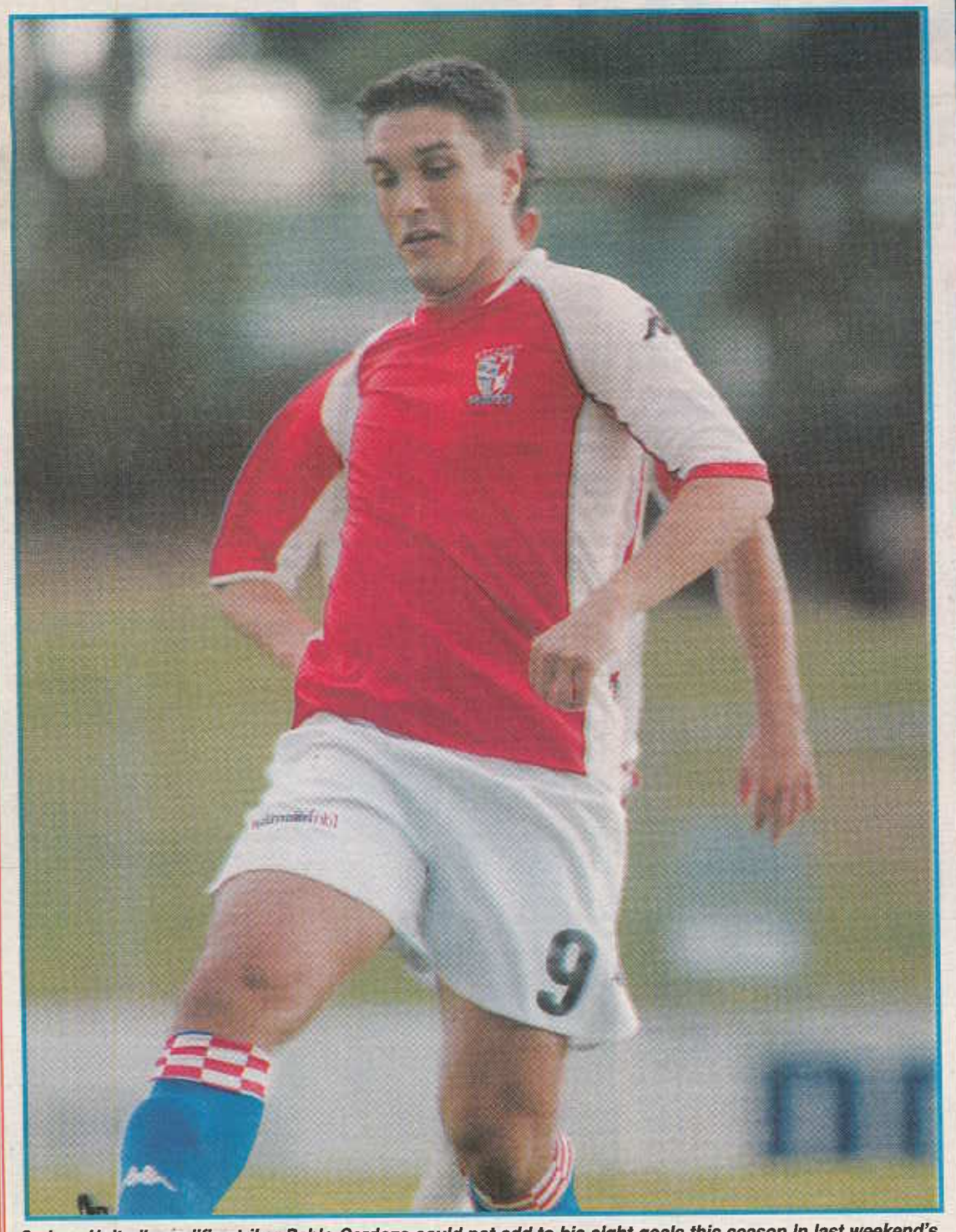
Jim Bakis came close for the visitors when he hit the bar from distance, but it was clear that the defence's for both sides were holding the upper hand. Arambasic made a late appearance in an attempt to increase his side's strength up front, but even he could not make inroads into the St George backline.

In the end, United had to settle for only a point, and can only rue their recent poor form which saw the Premiership slip from their grasp. With just four points from their last five games, it was a disappointed United side that left the Stadium.

For the Saints, a position in the Championship Group was the target and this has been achieved.

"We have done very well to make the eight considering the injuries suffered in recent weeks," Saints coach Manny Spanoudakis stated before the game.

"While we could have played a couple tonight had we needed, we felt it best to allow extra time for recovery. But we expect to have some players return for the Cup on Wednesday."



Sydney United's prolific striker Pablo Cardozo could not add to his eight goals this season in last weekend's game

Saints pint-sized striker John Buonavoglia was unable to get on the scoresheet against Sydney United last weekend

ST GEORGE SAINTS 0

SYDNEY UNITED 0

@St George Stadium, Rockdale.

ST GEORGE SAINTS: Andrew Crews, Ryan Walsh (Carlos Villazon 90'), Ivan Zelic, Daniel Clifford, Nick Orlic, Simon Verrender, Kosta Lagoudakis (George Lagoudakis 74'), Mirko Jurilj, Allan Wawi, James Kovas (Conor Murray 74'), John Buonavoglia.

SYDNEY UNITED: Mathew Cox, Milan Bosnar, Joe Vrkic, Allan Picken, Mile Jedinak, Michael Cunico, David Huxley, Peter Markovic (Marko Filipovoc 87'), Anthony Doumanis (Zlatko Arambasic 87'), Pablo Cardozo, Jim Bakis (Anthony Zmire 89').

Referee: Simon Przydacz

Assistant Referees: Terry Goodhew and Alex Spiroski

Fourth Official: Daniel Dewhurst

NSW PREMIER STATE & YOUTH RESULTS & TABLES

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE RESCHEDULED FIXTURE ROUND 1:

GRADE 20: Hajduk Wanderers United 2 Canterbury Marrickville 1.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 3:

GRADE 20: Macarthur Rams 5 Fairfield Bulls 1, Sutherland Sharks 1 Hurstville City Minotaurs 1, Fraser Park 2 Dragons Hurstville ZSC 0,Hajduk Wanderers United 2 Sydney University 2, Western Rage 1 Stanmore Hawks 0, FC Bossy Liverpool 4 Canterbury Marrickville 2, Dulwich Hill 0 Northern Tigers 1.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE: RD 3 GRADE 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Fraser Park Dragons	3	3	0	0	8	0	8	9
Macarthur Rams	3	2	1	0	9	3	6	7
Hajduk Wanderers United	3	2	1	0	8	4	4	7
Sydney University	3	1	2	0	9	5	4	5
FC Bossy Liverpool	3	1	2	0	7	5	2	5
Stanmore Hawks	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Western Rage	3	1	1	1	4	6	-2	4
Hurstville City Minotaurs	3	1	1	1	4	7	-3	4
Northern Tigers	3	1	1	1	4	7	-3	4
Sutherland Sharks	3	1	1	1	4	7	-3	4
Dulwich Hill	3	1	0	2	6	3	3	3
Hurstville ZSC	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1
Canterbury Marrickville	3	0	0	3	3	7	-4	0
Fairfield Bulls	3	0	0	3	1	9	-8	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE ROUND 3:

FIRST GRADE: Blacktown Spartans 1(P Nicolaou 61m) Hills Brumbies 2(M Ghobriel 47m G Doyle 85m), Mt Druitt Town 1(S Popovic 63m) Inter Lions 3(L Wright 45m F Zarrella 55m A Samonikac 56m), Gladesville Spirit FC 1(T Simpson 77m) Ryde City 5(S Jordan 21m S Biviano 63/80/84m C Giometti 69m),Belmore Hercules 2 (G King 19m N Andreou 69m) Bathurst 75 0, Mt Pritchard 2 (K Thoms 58m C OConnell 76m) Fairfield City Lions 2 (Y Ekinci 22/62m), White City 1 (M Savic 81m) Camden Tigers 2 (C Stein 35m J Vanwaard 40m).

GRADE 20: Blacktown Spartans 0 Hills Brumbies 3, Mt Druitt Town 1 Inter Lions 0, Gladesville Spirit FC 3 Ryde City 1, Belmore Hercules 5 Bathurst 75 2, Mt Pritchard 1 Fairfield City Lions 1, White City 2 Camden Tigers 6.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: ROUND 3 FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Mt Pritchard	3	2	1	0	6	2	4	7
Mt Druitt Town	3	2	0	1	11	4	7	6
Schofields Scorpions	2	2	0	0	6	3	3	6
White City	3	2	0	1	7	4	3	6
Belmore Hercules	3	2	0	1	5	4	1	6
Fairfield City Lions	3	1	1	1	7	8	-1	4
Inter Lions	3	1	1	1	5	6	-1	4
Ryde City	3	1	0	2	9	7	2	3
Hills Brumbies	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
Camden Tigers	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
Bathurst '75	3	1	0	2	4	6	-2	3
Gladesville Spirit	3	0	1	2	2	8	-6	1
Blacktown Spartans	3	0	0	3	3	12	-9	0

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: ROUND 3 GRADE 20

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Mt Pritchard	3	2	1	0	5	1	4	7
Camden Tigers	2	2	0	0	10	2	8	6
Hills Brumbies	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6
Ryde City	3	2	0	1	8	6	2	6
Inter Lions	3	2	0	1	5	4	1	6
Fairfield City Lions	3	1	1	1	8	6	2	4
Blacktown Spartans	3	1	1	1	9	9	0	4
Mt Druitt Town	3	1	1	1	9	11	-2	4
Schofields Scorpions	2	1	0	1	11	4	7	3
Belmore Hercules	3	1	0	2	6	6	0	3
Gladesville Spirit	3	1	0	2	6	8	-2	3
White City	3	0	0	3	5	13	-8	0
Bathurst '75	3	0	0	3	2	18	-16	0

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE RESCHEDULED ROUND 8:

GRADE 16: Macarthur Rams 0 Blacktown City 2.
GRADE 18: Macarthur Rams 2 Blacktown City 2.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3:

GRADE 13: Wollongong Wolves 1 Blacktown City 3, Bankstown City Cubs 1 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1, Hajduk Wanderers United 0 Marconi Stallions 3, St George Saints 1 Macarthur Rams 3, Sydney Olympic 1 Gladesville Spirit FC 2, Sutherland Shire 0 Parramatta Eagles 3, Manly United FC 2 Sydney United 2.

GRADE 14: Wollongong Wolves 1 Blacktown City 4, Bankstown City Cubs 0 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1, Hajduk Wanderers United 3 Marconi Stallions 0, St George Saints 4 Macarthur Rams 1, Sydney Olympic 1 Gladesville Spirit FC 3, Sutherland Shire 0 Parramatta Eagles 2, Manly United FC 2 Sydney United 3.

GRADE 15: Wollongong Wolves 3 Blacktown City 0, Bankstown City Cubs 3 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 1, Hajduk Wanderers United 0 Marconi Stallions 2, St George Saints 2 Macarthur Rams 2, Sydney Olympic 0 Gladesville Spirit FC 3, Sutherland Shire 4 Parramatta Eagles 1, Manly United FC 2 Sydney United 1.

GRADE 16: Wollongong Wolves 1 Blacktown City 1, Bankstown City Cubs 3 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 0, Hajduk Wanderers United 0 Marconi Stallions 0, St George Saints 4 Macarthur Rams 2, Sydney Olympic 0 Gladesville Spirit FC 0, Sutherland Shire 1 Parramatta Eagles 1, Manly United FC 1 Sydney United 3.

GRADE 18: Wollongong Wolves 1 Blacktown City 0, Bankstown City Cubs 3 A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers 0, Hajduk Wanderers United 2 Marconi Stallions 3, St George Saints 2 Macarthur Rams 2, Sydney Olympic 2 Gladesville Spirit FC 0, Sutherland Shire 2 Parramatta Eagles 1, Manly United FC 2 Sydney United 2.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Blacktown City Demons	3	3	0	0	14	1	13	9
Parramatta Eagles	3	3	0	0	13	1	12	9
Marconi Stallions	3	3	0	0	10	0	10	9
Gladesville Spirit	3	3	0	0	11	2	9	9
Macarthur Rams	3	3	0	0	9	4	5	9
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	3	2	1	0	5	1	4	7
Bankstown City Cubs	3	2	1	0	7	4	3	7
Sydney United	3	0	1	2	2	9	-7	1
Manly United FC	3	0	1	2	3	11	-8	1
Wollongong Wolves	3	0	0	3	2	6	-4	0
Sydney Olympic	3	0	0	3	3	8	-5	0
Hajduk Wanderers United	3	0	0	3	2	11	-9	0
Sutherland Sharks	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0
St George Saints	3	0	0	3	1	14	-13	0

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Blacktown City Demons	3	3	0	0	8	1	7	9
Sydney United	3	2	0	1	10	6	4	6
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
Manly United FC	3	2	0	1	9	6	3	6
Parramatta Eagles	3	2	0	1	7	6	1	6
Marconi Stallions	3	2	0	1	4	3	1	6
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	3	1	1	1	3	1	2	4
Bankstown City Cubs	3	1	1	1	1	1	0	4
Macarthur Rams	3	1	1	1	3	5	-2	4
Sutherland Sharks	3	1	0	2	3	4	-1	3
St George Saints	3	1	0	2	4	6	-2	3
Gladesville Spirit	3	1	0	2	4	8	-4	3
Sydney Olympic	3	0	1	2	1	5	-4	1
Wollongong Wolves	3	0	0	3	1	10	-9	0

Arrive alive NSW GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3:

UNDER 12: Macarthur Rams 0 Southern Branch 4, Marconi Stallions 0 Sutherland Association 6, Manly United FC 2Central Coast United FC 1, Penrith Nepean United 1 Gladesville Ravens 0, Sydney University 5 UNSW Soccer Club 0, Blacktown Association 2 Bathurst City 2, St George Saints 1 Northern Tigers 1.

UNDER 14: Macarthur Rams 4 Southern Branch 0, Marconi Stallions 1 Sutherland Association 5, Manly United FC 3 Central Coast United FC 2, Penrith Nepean United 6 Gladesville Ravens 0, Sydney University 0 UNSW Soccer Club 1, Blacktown Association 0 Bathurst City 2, St George Saints 4 Northern Tigers 0.

UNDER 16: Macarthur Rams 1 Southern Branch 2, Marconi Stallions 0 Sutherland Association 3, Manly United FC 1 Central Coast United FC 1, Penrith Nepean United 4 Gladesville Ravens 2, Sydney University 2 UNSW Soccer Club 1, Blacktown Association 1 Bathurst City 4, St George Saints 5 Northern Tigers 0.

Arrive alive GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3: GRADE 12

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	D	Pt
Sutherland Assoc.	3	2	1	0	-	8	0	8	7
St George Saints	3	1	1	0	1	8	1	7	7
Southern Branch	3	2	1	0	-	8	1	7	7
NW Sydney Koalas	2	2	0	0	-	6	1	5	6
Sydney University	3	2	0	1	-	8	7	1	6
Penrith Nepean Utd	3	2	0	1	-	3	2	1	6
Northern Tigers	3	1	2	0	-	9	2	7	5
Manly United FC	3	1	2	0	-	3	2	1	5
Central Coast Utd	3	1	0	2	-	8	5	3	3
Gladesville Ravens	3	1	0	2	-	2	4	-2	3
Macarthur Rams	3	0	0	2	1	3	8	-5	3
UNSW	3	1	0	2	-	2	13	-11	3
Bathurst City Panthers	3	0	2	1	-	3	7	-4	2
Blacktown Assoc.	3	0	1	2	-	4	6	-2	1
Marconi Stallions	3	0	0	3	-	1	11	-10	0

B denotes a Bye scoring 3 points and 3 Goal.

Arrive alive GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND 3: GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	D	Pt
St George Saints	3	2	0	0	1	11	0	11	9
Macarthur Rams	3	2	0	0	1	11	3	8	9
Sutherland Association	3	3	0	0	-	9	2	7	9
Penrith Nepean United	3	2	0	1	-	11	1	10	6
Bathurst City Panthers	3	2	0	1	-	7	4	3	6
Manly United FC	3	2	0	1	-	7	7	0	6
UNSW	3	1	1	1	-	3	7	-4	4
NW Sydney Koalas	2	1	0	1	-	6	6	0	3
Central Coast United	3	1	0	2	-	5	8	-3	3
Sydney University	3	1	0	2	-	2	5	-3	3
Northern Tigers	3	1	0	2	-	6	10	-4	3
Gladesville Ravens	3	1	0	2	-	4	10	-6	3
Blacktown Association	3	0	1	2	-	3	6	-3	1
Marconi Stallions	3	0	1	2	-	4	9	-5	1
Southern Branch	3	0	1	2	-	3	8	-5	1

B denotes a Bye scoring 3 points and 3 Goal.

Arrive alive GIRLS YOUTH LEAGUE ROUND 3: GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	D	Pt
Bathurst City Panthers	3	3	0	0	-	9	2	7	9
Penrith Nepean Utd	3	3	0	0	-	8	4	4	9
Southern Branch	3	2	1	0	-	5	2	3	7
St George Saints	3	1	0	1	1	9	2	7	6
NW Sydney Koalas	2	2	0	0	-	6	0	6	6
Central Coast United	3	1	1	1	-	14	3	11	4
Gladesville Ravens	3	1	1	1	-	7	5	2	4
Sutherland Association	3	1	1	1	-	5	3	2	4
Macarthur Rams	3	0	0	2	1	4	5	-1	3
Sydney University	3	1	0	2	-	2	17	-15	3
UNSW	3	0	2	1	-	2	3	-1	2
Manly United FC	3	0	2	1	-	2	4	-2	2
Blacktown Association	3	0	2	1	-	2	5	-3	2
Marconi Stallions	3	0	1	2	-	1	7	-6	1
Northern Tigers	3	0	1	2	-	1	9	-8	1

B denotes a Bye scoring 3 points and 3 Goal.

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Manly United FC	3	3	0	0	8	2	6	9
Wollongong Wolves	3	3	0	0	8	2	6	9
Marconi Stallions	3	3	0	0	6	0	6	9
Sutherland Sharks	3	2	1	0	6	2	4	7
Bankstown City Cubs	3	2	0	1	6	5	1	6
Gladesville Spirit	3	1	1	1	3	1	2	4
Sydney United	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
St George Saints	3	1	1	1	4	6	-2	4
Blacktown City Demons	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
Sydney Olympic	3	1	0	2	2	5	-3	3
Macarthur Rams	3	0	1	2	4	6	-2	1
Parramatta Eagles	3	0	1	2	3	7	-4	1
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	3	0	0	3	1	6	-5	0
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	3	0	0	3	2	9	-7	0

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 Grade 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Bankstown City Cubs	3	3	0	0	5	0	5	9
Marconi Stallions	3	2	1	0	5	0	5	7
Blacktown City Demons	3	2	1	0	6	2	4	7
Gladesville Spirit	3	2	1	0	3	0	3	7
Parramatta Eagles	3	2	1	0	3	1	2	7
Macarthur Rams	3	2	0	1	6	6	0	6
Manly United FC	3	1	0	2	4	4	0	3
Sydney United	3	1	0	2	3	3	0	3
St George Saints	3	1	0	2	4	8	-4	3
Wollongong Wolves	3	0	2	1	1	2	-1	2
Sydney Olympic	3	0	1	2	1	3	-2	1
Sutherland Sharks	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	3	0	1	2	1	4	-3	1
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	3	0	1	2	0	6	-6	1

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 GRADE 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	3	3	0	0	10	3	7	9
Sutherland Sharks	3	3	0	0	9	5	4	9
Bankstown City Cubs	3	2	1	0	7	2	5	7
Wollongong Wolves	3	2	1	0	7	2	5	7
Sydney Olympic	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
Parramatta Eagles	3	2	0	1	3	2	1	6
Manly United FC	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
St George Saints	3	1	1	1	6	8	-2	4
Sydney United	3	0	2	1	3	4	-1	2
Macarthur Rams	3	0	1	2	6	9	-3	1
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	3	0	1	2	4	7	-3	1
Gladesville Spirit	3	0	1	2	3	6	-3	1
Blacktown City Demons	3	0	1	2	2	6	-4	1
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	3	0	0	3	3	11	-8	0

PREMIER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Marconi Stallions	15	13	1	1	35	6	29	40.00
Bankstown City Cubs	15	10	3	2	26	12	14	33.00
Blacktown City Demons	15	9	2	4	33	15	18	29.00
Parramatta Eagles	15	9	2	4	29	17	12	29.00
Gladesville Spirit	15	7	3	5	24	17	7	24.00
Manly United FC	15	7	2	6	29	28	1	23.00
Macarthur Rams	15	6	3	6	28	30	-2	21.00
Sutherland Sharks	15	6	2	7	22	28	-6	20.00
Wollongong Wolves	15	5	3	7	19	22	-3	18.00
Sydney United	15	4	4	7	21	25	-4	16.00
A.P.I.A. Leichhardt	15	4	2	9	17	30	-13	14.00
St George Saints	15	4	2	9	19	42	-23	14.00
Sydney Olympic	15	3	2	10	13	25	-12	11.00
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	15	1	3	11	11	29	-18	6.00

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3

GRADE 13: Fraser Park 3 Granville Rage 3, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 Hills Brumbies 0, Dulwich Hill 1 Schofields Scorpions 2, Parramatta Star 2 Northern Tigers 3, Bathurst 75 Western 0 Central Coast United 0, Penrith Nepean United 0 Southern Branch 0.

GRADE 14: Fraser Park 2 Granville Rage 1, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 Hills Brumbies 0, Dulwich Hill 0 Schofields Scorpions 4, Parramatta Star 2 Northern Tigers 2, Bathurst 75 Western 1 Central Coast United 1, Penrith Nepean United 2 Southern Branch 2.

GRADE 15: Fraser Park 1 Granville Rage 2, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Hills Brumbies 1, Dulwich Hill 2 Schofields Scorpions 3, Parramatta Star 0 Northern Tigers 5, Bathurst 75 Western 1 Central Coast United 0, Penrith Nepean United 0 Southern Branch 0.

GRADE 16: Fraser Park 1 Granville Rage 3, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 3 Hills Brumbies 2, Dulwich Hill 0 Schofields Scorpions 1, Parramatta Star 1 Northern Tigers 3, Bathurst 75 Western 4 Central Coast United 1, Penrith Nepean United 4 Southern Branch 0.

GRADE 18: Fraser Park 2 Granville Rage 0, Bonnyrigg White Eagles 5 Hills Brumbies 2, Dulwich Hill 1 Schofields Scorpions 4, Parramatta Star 2 Northern Tigers 1, Bathurst 75 Western 0 Central Coast United 4, Penrith Nepean United 3 Southern Branch 1.

NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Granville Rage	3	2	1	0	10	6	4	7
Northern Tigers	3	2	0	1	4	5	-1	6
Penrith Nepean United	3	1	2	0	3	0	3	5
Fraser Park	3	1	2	0	7	5	2	5
Central Coast United	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	3	1	1	1	5	3	2	4
Southern Branch	3	1	1	1	3	3	0	4
Schofields Scorpions	3	1	1	1	2	3	-1	4
Parramatta Star	3	1	0	2	5	5	0	3
Dulwich Hill	3	1	0	2	8	11	-3	3
Bathurst '75 Western	3	0	2	1	0	1	-1	2
Hills Brumbies	3	0	0	3	4	10	-6	0

NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Southern Branch	3	2	1	0	8	3	5	7
Parramatta Star	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
Schofields Scorpions	3	2	0	1	8	3	5	6
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	6
Fraser Park	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6
Bathurst '75 Western	3	1	1	1	8	5	3	4
Central Coast United	3	1	1	1	5	6	-1	4
Dulwich Hill	3	1	0	2	5	9	-4	3
Hills Brumbies	3	1	0	2	3	8	-5	3
Penrith Nepean United	3	0	2	1	4	6	-2	2
Northern Tigers	3	0	2	1	4	10	-6	2
Granville Rage	3	0	0	3	3	6	-3	0

NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Granville Rage	3	3	0	0	9	2	7	9
Schofields Scorpions	3	3	0	0	7	3	4	9
Fraser Park	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
Bathurst '75 Western	3	2	0	1	4	4	0	6
Southern Branch	3	1	2	0	6	3	3	5
Penrith Nepean United	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
Northern Tigers	3	1	1	1	8	4	4	4
Hills Brumbies	3	1	1	1	4	3	1	4
Central Coast United	3	0	1	2	3	5	-2	1
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	3	0	1	2	4	8	-4	1
Dulwich Hill	3	0	0	3	3	8	-5	0
Parramatta Star	3	0	0	3	1	12	-11	0

NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Northern Tigers	3	3	0	0	10	2	8	9
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	3	3	0	0	10	5	5	9
Schofields Scorpions	3	2	1	0	5	1	4	7
Penrith Nepean United	3	2	0	1	7	3	4	6
Hills Brumbies	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	6
Parramatta Star	3	1	1	1	5	5	0	4
Granville Rage	3	1	0	2	5	7	-2	3
Dulwich Hill	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
Bathurst '75 Western	3	1	0	2	5	8	-3	3
Central Coast United	3	1	0	2	2	7	-5	3
Fraser Park	3	0	0	3	4	8	-4	0
Southern Branch	3	0	0	3	0	8	-8	0

NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 GRADE 18

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Penrith Nepean United	3	3	0	0	14	3	11	9
Fraser Park	3	3	0	0	8	0	8	9
Central Coast United	3	2	0	1	11	5	6	6
Granville Rage	3	2	0	1	8	4	4	6
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	3	2	0	1	7	5	2	6
Parramatta Star	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6
Schofields Scorpions	3	2	0	1	5	3	2	6
Bathurst '75 Western	3	1	0	2	3	7	-4	3
Hills Brumbies	3	1	0	2	4	9	-5	3
Southern Branch	3	0	0	3	4	10	-6	0
Northern Tigers	3	0	0	3	3	13	-10	0
Dulwich Hill	3	0	0	3	2	12	-10	0

NSW SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE: ROUND 3 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Schofields Scorpions	15	10	2	3	27	13	14	32.00
Penrith Nepean United	15	7	6	2	31	14	17	27.00
Fraser Park	15	8	2	5	30	20	10	26.00
Bonnyrigg WE	15	8	2	5	32	24	8	26.00
Granville Rage	15	8	1	6	35	25	10	25.00
Northern Tigers	15	6	3	6	29	34	-5	21.00
Parramatta Star	15	6	2	7	22	28	-6	20.00
Central Coast United	15	5	4	6	24	25	-1	19.00
Bathurst '75 Western	15	5	3	7	20	25	-5	18.00
Southern Branch	15	4	4	7	21	27	-6	16.00
Hills Brumbies	15	5	1	9	21	33	-12	16.00
Dulwich Hill	15	3	0	12	21	45	-24	9.00

DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (YOUTH) ROUND 3:

GRADE 13: Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 Camden Tigers 2, Ryde City vs Sydney University Washed Out, Belmore Hercules 1 Rockdale City Suns 1, Mt Druitt Town 2 Blacktown Spartans 3.

GRADE 14: Hurstville City Minotaurs 0 Camden Tigers 1, Ryde City vs Sydney University Washed Out, Belmore Hercules 2 Rockdale City Suns 1, Mt Druitt Town 5 Blacktown Spartans 0.

GRADE 15: Hurstville City Minotaurs 3 Camden Tigers 4, Ryde City vs Sydney University Washed Out, Belmore Hercules 1 Rockdale City Suns 1, Mt Druitt Town 3 Blacktown Spartans 0.

GRADE 16: Hurstville City Minotaurs 3 Camden Tigers 2, Ryde City vs Sydney University Washed Out, Belmore Hercules 1 Rockdale City Suns 5, Mt Druitt Town 1 Blacktown Spartans 1.

DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (YOUTH) ROUND 3 GRADE 13

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Belmore Hercules	3	2	1	0	9	4	5	7
Blacktown Spartans	3	2	1	0	6	3	3	7
Hurstville City Minotaurs	3	2	0	1	9	4	5	6
Rockdale City Suns	3	0	3	0	2	2	0	3
Camden Tigers	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3
Mt Druitt Town	3	0	2	1	4	5	-1	2
Ryde City	2	0	1	1	2	5	-3	1
Sydney University	2	0	0	2	3	9	-6	0

DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (YOUTH) ROUND 3 GRADE 14

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Mt Druitt Town	3	3	0	0	9	1	8	9
Sydney University	2	2	0	0	9	2	7	6
Camden Tigers	3	2	0	1	4	3	1	6
Ryde City	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
Rockdale City Suns	3	1	0	2	3	5	-2	3
Belmore Hercules	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3
Blacktown Spartans	3	1	0	2	4	9	-5	3
Hurstville City Minotaurs	3	0	0	3	1	7	-6	0

DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (YOUTH) ROUND 3 GRADE 15

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Rockdale City Suns	3	2	1	0	5	3	2	7
Mt Druitt Town	3	2	0	1	5	2	3	6
Belmore Hercules	3	1	2	0	8	3	5	5
Sydney University	2	1	1	0	6	2	4	4
Ryde City	2	1	0	1	8	4	4	3
Blacktown Spartans	3	1	0	2	4	7	-3	3
Camden Tigers	3	1	0	2	5	10	-5	3
Hurstville City Minotaurs	3	0	0	3	5	15	-10	0

DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (YOUTH) ROUND 3 GRADE 16

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pt
Ryde City	2	2	0	0	6	0	6	6
Hurstville City Minotaurs	3	2	0	1	8	4	4	6
Camden Tigers	3	2	0	1	8	5	3	6
Rockdale City Suns	3	2	0	1	6	3	3	6
Mt Druitt Town	3	1	1	1	3	5	-2	4
Blacktown Spartans	3	0	1	2	2	4	-2	1
Sydney University	2	0	1	1	2	7	-5	1
Belmore Hercules	3	0	1	2	4	11	-7	1

DEVELOPMENT LEAGUE (YOUTH) ROUND 3 CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Mt Druitt Town	12	6	3	3	21	13	8	21.00
Ryde City	8	4	1	3	19	12	7	13.00
Rockdale City Suns	12	5	4	3	16	13	3	19.00
Camden Tigers	12	6	0	6	21	25	-4	18.00
Sydney University	8	3	2	3	20	20	0	11.00
Belmore Hercules	12	4	4	4	25	25	0	16.00
Blacktown Spartans	12	4	2	6	16	23	-7	14.00
Hurstville City Min.	12	4	0	8	23	30	-7	12.00

attack METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: ROUND 3 NORTHERN CONFERENCE:

GRADE 11: Manly Warringah Association 0 Nepean Association 0, Blacktown Association 3 Ku-ring-gai Association 1, Central Coast Association 0 Granville Association 4, Eastern Suburbs Association 1 Gladesville Hornsby Association 1.

GRADE 12: Manly Warringah Association 5 Nepean Association 1, Blacktown Association 5 Ku-ring-gai Association 1, Central Coast Association 1 Granville Association 4, Eastern Suburbs Association 0 Gladesville Hornsby Association 4.

attack U11 METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: RD 3 NORTHERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Blacktown Association	3	3	0	0	10	4	6	9
Granville	3	2	1	0	8	1	7	7
Eastern Suburbs	3	1	2	0	4	3	1	5
Manly Warringah	3	1	1	1	8	5	3	4
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3
Nepean Association	3	0	2	1	2	3	-1	2
Gladesville Hornsby	3	0	2	1	2	5	-3	2
Central Coast Association	3	0	0	3	0	12	-12	0

attack U12 METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: RD 3 NORTHERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Blacktown Association	3	3	0	0	22	1	21	9
Granville	3	3	0	0	12	1	11	9
Manly Warringah	3	2	0	1	9	5	4	6
Central Coast Association	3	1	0	2	6	8	-2	3
Gladesville Hornsby	3	1	0	2	6	10	-4	3
Ku-Ring-Gai Association	3	1	0	2	3	9	-6	3
Nepean Association	3	1	0	2	6	22	-16	3
Eastern Suburbs	3	0	0	3	1	9	-8	0

attack METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: ROUND 3 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

GRADE 11: Canterbury Association Southern Branch Washed Out, Bankstown Association 0 Southern Districts 1, Macarthur Association 2 Illawarra Association 1, Sutherland Association 4 St George Association 1.

GRADE 12: Canterbury Association Southern Branch Washed Out, Bankstown Association 0 Southern Districts 3, Macarthur Association 0 Illawarra Association 2, Sutherland Association 0 St George Association 0.

attack U11 METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: RD 3 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Sutherland Association	3	2	1	0	10	2	8	7
Macarthur	3	2	1	0	5	3	2	7
St George Assoc	3	2	0	1	9	5	4	6
Illawarra	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Canterbury	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
Southern Districts	3	1	0	2	2	3	-1	3
Southern Branch	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1
Bankstown Assoc	3	0	0	3	0	11	-11	0

attack U12 METROPOLITAN LEAGUE: RD 3 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Illawarra	3	3	0	0	7	2	5	9
Sutherland Association	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
Southern Districts	3	2	0	1	6	4	2	6
St George Assoc	3	1	1	1	3	4	-1	4
Canterbury	2	1	0	1	3	1	2	3
Southern Branch	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1
Macarthur	3	0	1	2	0	3	-3	1
Bankstown Assoc	3	0	0	3	2	9	-7	0

For full reports on Youth League action, log on to soccernsw.com.au/nswypyl

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE

SHARKS CIRCLE TOP SPOT

By Paul Goodwin and Adrian Warren

Sutherland Sharks took outright lead of the Winter Super League for the first time in nine years, with a 2-0 win over Hurstville City Minotaurs at Seymour Shaw Park last Saturday.

As the only team with three wins from as many starts, the Sharks now sit proudly atop the table for what is believed to be the first time for the club since winning the Super League, then the State's premier competition, back in 1996. That team featured current coach, Stewart Porter.

The Sharks battled hard to achieve the win against a typically physical and committed Minotaurs' outfit. Monte Pfrengle scored in the 64th minute, and Peter Satos made sure of the points in the 85th minute.

The win could have proven costly with three key players injured, notably Sasho Tirovski, who was forced from the field on a stretcher with neck and jaw injuries.

The Sharks' playmaker was later released from hospital having been cleared of any serious injury.

A shoulder injury to goalkeeper Stewart Vella, who came off at half time, is set to give Adam Kurtz at least a few weeks to impress. Iain Macdonald will have to undergo a fitness test on his strained hamstring, before taking the field on Wednesday night against Blacktown City in the third round of the Continental Tyres Cup.

The first half was largely a war of attrition, with neither goalkeeper involved in the game to any extent and a sprinkling of rain throughout the second period didn't help the quality of the game.

It took some tenacious play from Pfrengle to prise open the Minotaurs defence. The nuggety midfielder latched onto the ball after his own shot had been blocked and coolly slotted home from 15 yards.

Soon after this came the injury to Tirovski, arguably the best player on the field. However his replacement, Chris Hunt, picked up the baton and soon set up the second goal.

His ball from the left flank was perfectly floated over the defence, where makeshift striker Satos chested the ball down and finished with aplomb.

Early season pacesetters Hajduk Wanderers United and Sydney University both remained unbeaten, as they drew 1-1 at Hajduk Stadium.

University took the lead from a second half counter-attack, when Daniel Schwarzer was caught out of position and Daisuke Nakayama chipped the ball over the advancing keeper.

The equaliser came in the 80th minute when Tim Gledhill slammed the ball into the bottom left corner.

The Wanderers continued to put further pressure on the University defence, but could not convert the clear chances that came their way.

Fraser Park Dragons recorded a 2-0 win over a still-disappointing Hurstville ZSC in a game in which the referee's pad and pencil were worked overtime.

No fewer than three red cards and numerous yellows were handed out at the Sydenham ground.

A first half Manny Papageorgiou penalty and a later goal from the same player did the damage, as the home side got well on top of one of the division's traditionally slow starters.

Shots from Archie Markopoulos, Dominic Arcella and Mark Guerreiro were all brilliantly saved by the Hurstville keeper, otherwise Ian Gillan's men may well have at least doubled their victory margin.

Hurstville have the height of basketballers, but failed to capitalise and never really took advantage of that through set pieces and crosses.

The first goal came when Hurstville ZSC were penalised for a push on Nick Bolianitis, who was trying to meet a corner.

It wasn't long after half time before a second goal arrived from Papageorgiou.

Hurstville had a little too much to say to the referee at times, and it wasn't long before they were reduced to ten men when Costel De Andre received his second yellow.

The home side were reduced to ten men when Bolianitis, as last man, brought down a Hurstville striker just outside of the area.

A few minutes later the visitors lost another player to a red card and were therefore down to nine men.

The disappointing start for reigning champion Stanmore Hawks continued as they lost 2-0 away to Western Rage at Garside Park.

After a disastrous 6-0 thrashing at the hands of Hajduk Wanderers just seven days earlier, Western Rage bounced back.

The return of star midfielder Mauricio Islas was a major boost for Rage, but Islas was forced to play in the unfamiliar role of sweeper, due to the late withdrawal of injured captain Sal Zullo.

After a fairly even first half, Western Rage stepped up a gear upon the resumption of play, with two goals in quick succession.

A chip into the area from the right found Sevket Ersahim and, though the youngster had little room in which to manoeuvre, he did well to volley past the keeper, Hamish McLean.

Four minutes later Rage added to their slender tally with some one-touch football down the middle to open up the Hawks' defence.

Ismael Arrarte outpaced his marker, running onto a lovely through ball to slot it past the generally faultless Stanmore 'keeper.

Rage could have added to their total as they hit the upright twice before the end.

Two of this season's fancied sides, FC Bossy Liverpool and Canterbury Marrickville, played out a 2-2 draw at Ernie Smith Reserve.

In a dramatic conclusion to the contest a twice-taken stoppage time penalty awarded by referee Wayne Spagnol, earned FC Bossy a point.

The first penalty, from Alex Asanovic, was saved by the Berries' keeper, but the referee deemed that there had been movement and the kick was retaken, this time successfully.

Canterbury led from a Fred Umlil goal just moments before the break, only for Mirza Sehic to level for Bossy in the 61st minute.

John Tsironis restored the Berries advantage in the 73rd minute and the visitors looked like hanging on for the win until that late penalty drama.

Dulwich Hill and a new-look Northern Tigers shared the spoils at Arlington Oval, where players from both sides were sent for early showers at varying stages of a game that was generally played in a very good spirit.

Losing English midfielder Luke Vincent in only the 14th minute, Dulwich Hill did well to snatch the lead in the 20th minute from a well-directed corner from the left by Ivo de Jesus.

Poor marking, inside the goalmouth, by Tigers' defenders allowed Andrew Falas to capitalise, after an initial shot from Jose Mendes had been only partially blocked.

Dulwich owed much for their first half clean sheet to some great goalkeeping from Joshua Da Palma, whose heroics continued in the second half, after the visitors had caught the home side napping and drawn level only two minutes after the restart.

Dulwich had been left short-handed when Vincent was dismissed after a heavy challenge on Frost.

The numbers were evened up after the Tigers Michael McCrory, whose bustling style saw him tangle with both the keeper and several defenders, picked up two cautions by the 66th minute.

McCrory had been a thorn in the side of the Dulwich team, forcing the keeper to save with his legs and push another booming effort around the post.

Dulwich probably had the most chances, late in the game.

Ian King and Mendes had sound games for Dulwich while Scott Ryan, McCrory and Danny Hurwiz looked good for the Tigers.

In a match between two teams striving for their first win of the season, Macarthur Rams beat the youthful Fairfield Bulls 1-0 at Lynwood Park.

It took 71 minutes for Macarthur to hit the front with Paul Wither striking after other efforts had been cleared off the line, or many other chances had been missed at close range.

Hajduk Wanderers briefly shot to the top of the Super League ladder, following their 2-1 win over Canterbury-Marrickville, at Hajduk Stadium last Wednesday in a deferred Round One match.

This was a very even game that could have gone either way, but Hajduk came up with what proved to be the winner early in the second half.

John Tsironis had a fine header that hit the post in the 17th minute for the visitors, who were well on top in the early stages of the game.

Hajduk then began to get more into the match and in the 21st minute Elsid Barkhousir hit the upright.

The opening goal for Hajduk came in the 38th minute when Tim Gledhill curled the ball around the keeper.

Canterbury got the equaliser just before half time as Tsirionis beat the keeper from close range. Gledhill setup the winner for George Issa in the 51st minute.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE RESCHEDULED FIXTURE ROUND 1:

FIRST GRADE: Hadjuk Wanderers United 2 Canterbury Marrickville 1.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 3:

FIRST GRADE: Macarthur Rams 1 (P Wither 71m) Fairfield Bulls 0, Sutherland Sharks 2(M Pfrengle 64m P Satos 85m) Hurstville City Minotaurs 0, Fraser Park Dragons 2 (E Papageorgiou 17/52m) Hurstville ZSC 0, Hajduk Wanderers United 1 (T Gledhill 80m) Sydney University 1 (D Nakayama 52m), Western Rage 2 (S Ersahin 61m I Arrarte 65m) Stanmore Hawks 0, FC Bossy Liverpool 2 (M Sehic 69m A Asanovic 90m penalty) Canterbury Marrickville 2 (F Umlil 44m J Tsironis 73m), Dulwich Hill 1 (A Falas 20m) Northern Tigers 1 (P Davies 47m).

	P	W	D	L	F	A	D	Pts
Sutherland Sharks	3	3	0	0	7	0	7	9
Hajduk Wanderers Utd	3	2	1	0	9	2	7	7
Fraser Park Dragons	3	2	1	0	5	1	4	7
Sydney University	3	2	1	0	4	1	3	7
FC Bossy Liverpool	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
Canterbury Marrickville	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Dulwich Hill	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Western Rage	3	1	1	1	2	6	-4	4
Macarthur Rams	3	1	0	2	2	5	-3	3
Northern Tigers	3	0	2	1	1	2	-1	2
Hurstville City Min.	3	0	2	1	3	5	-2	2
Hurstville ZSC	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1
Stanmore Hawks	3	0	1	2	0	3	-3	1
Fairfield Bulls	3	0	0	3	0	6	-6	0

LEADING GOALSCORERS

4 Manny Papageorgiou (FP), Tim Gledhill (HW), 3 Ivo de Jesus (DH)

2 Luke McDougall (SU), Mark Guerrero (HW), Iain Macdonald (SS), Alex Asanovic (FCBL), John Tsironis (CMO)

Arrive alive WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

THREE TEAMS SET THE PACE

Unbeaten trio Bathurst City Panthers, Macarthur Rams and Marconi Stallions were the league leaders following round three of the 2005 Arrive alive NSW Womens Super League, after each won last weekend.

The Panthers held top spot on goal difference, following a 7-2 away drubbing of Blacktown Association, which has lost all three of its games.

At Lynwood Park, the Rams scored either side of half-time to beat Southern Branch, which has also started with three losses.

Amanda Cergovski scored with a well struck drive in the 44th minute and Hailey Kerrigan toed home in a goalmouth scramble early in the second half. Former Wollongong Wolves clubmates, Dimitra Poulos and Sarah Gollop, produced some fantastic saves in the Southern Branch and Rams goals respectively.

The Stallions came from a goal down to overcome the winless Sutherland Association 5-1 at Marconi Stadium.

Maggie El Husseini gave the Sharks an early lead, slotting home a one-on-one effort following a defensive mistake from Lisa Warrener. Fab Perfilio equalized for the Stallions in the 35th minute when a Jodie Bain free kick found her within the box and she sneaked a shot into the bottom left hand corner.

The scores were locked at the break, but after a re-shuffle of formation, the Stallions ran away with the match adding goals from Perfilio, Nicole Kimber, Wendy Graham and Alicia Cavanagh.

Fourth placed Manly United, the only other unbeaten team, beat Central Coast United 3-0.

Christine Collinson scored Manlyís first goal in the 17th minute when her shot from the corner of the 18-yard box evaded the Central Coast defenders and keeper. Elyce Bates added the second in the 35th minute following up a rebound from a Maggie Lankshear shot. Tiana Leckey sealed the match in the 53rd minute, following a solo effort which she buried from close range.

Tulay Unner and Angelina Koncurat both scored hat-tricks at St George Stadium, as St George Association recorded a 11-0 mauling of last placed Northern Tigers, who have conceded 27 goals in their three losses.

Sydney University beat UNSW 2-1 in the university derby at Hensley Athletic Field. UNSW opened the scoring when Sydney University goalkeeper, Emma Kate-Dewhurst fouled Sanaa Choucair in the box in the 25th minute with Holly Trimble converting the subsequent penalty.

Sydney University equalised five minutes later when Paula Kelly headed in a Catriona Watt cross.

UNSW had an opportunity to take the lead early in the second half when Dewhurst fouled Sandra Stavrou in a one-on-one challenge, but Trimble was unable to replicate her previous effort.

Norwegian import, Astrid Larssen gave Sydney University the lead in the 79th minute, tapping in following a goalmouth scramble.

Penrith Nepean United rebounded from their round two loss to Central Coast with a convincing 6-2 victory over Gladesville Ravens at Cook Park.

North West Sydney Koalas had the Bye.

Arrive alive NSW WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE

Arrive alive WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 3

FIRST GRADE: Macarthur Rams 2 (A Cergovski 44m H Kerrigan 47m) Southern Branch 0, Marconi Stallions 5 (F Perfilio 35/61m N Kimber 56m W Graham 60m A Cavanagh 70m) Sutherland Association 1 (M Elhusseni 20m), Manly United FC 3 (C Collinson 17m E Bates 35m T Leckey 53m) Central Coast United FC 0, Penrith Nepean United 6 (N Maryvale 2m B Sinades 25/43m M Lopes 64m T Rockall 80m J Gough 87m) Gladesville Ravens 2 (L Eades 28m M Corderoy 46m), Sydney University 2 (P Kelly x 1 A Larssen x 1) UNSW Soccer Club 1 (H Trimble x 1), Blacktown Association 2 (M Reilly-Brown 22/43m) Bathurst City 7 (K Cassidy 10/36m S Waine 18m L McClymont 32/42m B Muldoon 35m V Hart 44m), St George Saints 11 (T Unner 3/30/50m A Baker 8m M Sale 9/82m C Snedden 18m A Koncurat 21/63/87m Own goal 40m) Northern Tigers 0.

GRADE 21: Macarthur Rams 0 Southern Branch 0, Marconi Stallions 8 Sutherland Association 0, Manly United FC 2 Central Coast United FC 0, Penrith Nepean United 7 Gladesville Ravens 0, Sydney University 1 UNSW Soccer Club 1, Blacktown Association 0 Bathurst City 4, St George Saints 2 Northern Tigers 2.

Arrive alive WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 3: FIRST GRADE

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	D	Pt
Bathurst City Pan	3	3	0	0	-	20	3	17	9
Marconi Stallions	3	3	0	0	-	17	1	16	9
Macarthur Rams	3	2	0	0	1	7	0	7	9
Manly United FC	3	2	1	0	-	8	3	5	7
St George Saints	3	1	0	1	1	15	4	11	6
UNSW	3	2	0	1	-	14	3	11	6
Penrith Nepean Utd	3	2	0	1	-	8	5	3	6
Central Coast Utd	3	2	0	1	-	5	3	2	6
Sydney University	3	2	0	1	-	5	3	2	6
Gladesville Ravens	3	1	0	2	-	10	11	-1	3
Sutherland Assoc	3	0	1	2	-	3	9	-6	1
NW Sydney Koalas	2	0	0	2	-	0	9	-9	0
Southern Branch	3	0	0	3	-	1	10	-9	0
Blacktown Assoc	3	0	0	3	-	5	21	-16	0
Northern Tigers	3	0	0	3	-	0	27	-27	0

B denotes a Bye scoring 3 points and 3 Goal.

Arrive alive WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 3: GRADE 21

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	D	Pt
Marconi Stallions	3	3	0	0	-	13	2	11	9
Bathurst City Pan	3	3	0	0	-	8	2	6	9
Macarthur Rams	3	1	1	0	1	5	1	4	7
Penrith Nepean Utd	3	2	0	1	-	16	5	11	6
Sutherland Assoc	3	2	0	1	-	5	9	-4	6
UNSW	3	1	2	0	-	5	4	1	5
St George Saints	3	0	1	1	1	6	4	2	4
Sydney University	3	1	1	1	-	4	4	0	4
Manly United FC	3	1	1	1	-	3	3	0	4
Gladesville Ravens	3	1	0	2	-	5	9	-4	3
Central Coast Utd	3	1	0	2	-	5	12	-7	3
Southern Branch	3	0	2	1	-	3	4	-1	2
Northern Tigers	3	0	1	2	-	4	6	-2	1
Blacktown Assoc	3	0	1	2	-	3	11	-8	1
NW Sydney Koalas	2	0	0	2	-	1	4	-3	0

B denotes a Bye scoring 3 points and 3 Goal.

Continental Tyres Cup Preview

OLYMPIC AND MARCONI MEET IN HISTORIC CUP CLASH

NSW Premier League clubs Sydney Olympic and the Marconi Stallions meet in a history making encounter tomorrow (Wednesday) in the plum tie of Round three of the 2005 Continental Tyres Cup at Sydney Olympic Park Athletic Centre.

This fixture will be the first time this venue will be used for a competition match in the history of Soccer NSW competitions.

The 16 winners from round two are now joined by the big guns with the 16 NSW Premier League Clubs entering the competition.

The third round draw has thrown up four other all-Premier League clashes apart from the Olympic-Marconi tie, Bonnyrigg White Eagles v Bankstown City Lions (Serbian Centre), Sydney Crescent Star v Sydney United (Lidcombe Oval), Wollongong Wolves v Parramatta Eagles (John Crehan Park) and Blue Devils v Central Coast United at Belconnen Soccer Centre.

The "Giant Killers" of the association-based teams, Bulli (Illawarra) and Eastwood St Andrews (Gladesville-Hornsby) will be out to cause further upsets against Rockdale City Suns and Fraser Park Dragons, respectively.

In addition there are two double headers, with Canterbury Marrickville Olympic v Dulwich Hill & Stanmore Hawks v Camden Tigers at Melita Stadium, while Lidcombe Oval hosts the matches between Sydney Crescent Star and Sydney United & Roosters FC against Hurstville City Minotaurs.

In the remaining fixtures, Penrith Nepean United host FC Bossy Liverpool at Cook Park - St Marys, Manly United take on Hadjuk Wanderers United at Cromer Park, Blacktown City Demons are up against the Sutherland Shire Sharks at Fairfax Community Stadium, Inter Lions travel out to Lynwood Park to take on the Macarthur Rams, Hurstville ZSC tackle A.P.I.A.-Leichhardt Tigers at Lambert Park and Western Rage opposes St George Saints at Garside Park.

Entry to all fixtures is $10 for adults, $5 for Concession card holders and children under 16 are admitted free of charge.

Tickets available for purchase at the venue. For more information regarding the 2005 Continental Tyres Cup go to www.continentaltyrescup.com.au

Continental
TYRES - ENGINEERED IN GERMANY
Continental OFFICIAL PARTNER

Date	Home Team	F	A	Away Team	Venue	Time
23-03-05	Penrith Nepean United			FC Bossy Liverpool	Cook Park (St Marys)	19:30
23-03-05	Sydney Crescent Star			Sydney United	Lidcombe Oval	20:15
23-03-05	Canterbury Marrickville			Dulwich Hill	Melita Stadium	18:15
23-03-05	Rockdale City Suns			Bulli	Balls Park	19:30
23-03-05	Stanmore Hawks			Camden Tigers	Melita Stadium	20:15
23-03-05	Roosters FC			Hurstville City Minotaurs	Lidcombe Oval	18:15
23-03-05	Hurstville ZSC			A.P.I.A. Leichhardt Tigers	Lambert Park	19:30
23-03-05	Bonnyrigg White Eagles			Bankstown City Lions	Serbian Centre	19:30
23-03-05	Western Rage			St George Saints	Garside Park	19:30
23-03-05	Manly United FC			Hajduk Wanderers United	Cromer Park	19:30
23-03-05	Wollongong Wolves			Parramatta Eagles	John Crehan Park	19:30
23-03-05	Blacktown City Demons			Sutherland Sharks	Fairfax Community Std	19:30
23-03-05	Inter Lions			Macarthur Rams	Lynwood Park	19:30
23-03-05	Sydney Olympic			Marconi Stallions	Sydney Olympic Park	19:30
24-03-05	Blue Devils			Central Coast United	Belconnen Soccer Centre	19:00
23-03-05	Fraser Park			Eastwood St Andrews	Fraser Park	19:30

Winners at the 2004-05 NSW Futsal State League Awards

The Club Person of the Year for each for each club displays their award

Effie Zanardo of Penrith Pumas holds the Women's State League Golden Boot Trophy she won for scoring 15 goals

Socceroo greats believe in World Cup qualification

By Joe Russo

There is no doubt that Australia will find the fifth best South American team difficult, but the task of qualifying for the next World Cup in Germany is far from impossible.

That is the opinion of three former Socceroo coaches who, between them, have coached various national sides for the best part of the past three decades.

Raul Blanco, Les Scheinflug and Rale Rasic have all been influential figures on the local coaching scene and all have guided the senior national team at various stages in their career.

"I want Australia to qualify so badly you wouldn't believe it," said Les Scheinflug, echoing the thoughts of many in the wider football community.

"I would be delighted more than anybody because it would bring back many great memories," said Rale Rasic, who coached Australia at the 1974 World Cup.

In November it will be a case of déjà vu – Australia must win a two-leg play off against the fifth best nation that South America can throw up.

"Without any doubt we are going through the most formidable group," said Raul Blanco, whose knowledge of South American football is second to none. "I mean we have to play the fifth best South American team which is a very very difficult task."

In 1993, under the late great Eddie Thomson, Australia lost 2-1 on aggregate against Argentina, superbly led by the marvellous Diego Maradona recalled to lead his nation by Presidential decree.

After a 1-1 draw at the Sydney Football Stadium, it was a cruel deflection that beat then Socceroo goalkeeper Robert Zabica in Buenos Aires. 1-0 was the final score in that match and Australia once again had narrowly failed to qualify.

Fast forward eight years to 2001: home first leg, away second leg, Australia fails to qualify. Talk about history repeating itself.

Uruguay, who had succumbed to a Kevin Muscat penalty at the MCG, turned the tables in Montevideo and won 3-0. The World Cup in our part of the world, in our very own time zone, with record television ratings, was sans Socceroos.

So will 2005 be much of a muchness or will the national team, for the first time in 32 years, qualify for a world cup?

"The preparation is the most important thing," said Blanco. "It could be in high altitude or in very hot conditions or even both, and we need to be ready.

"We need to be completely aware of our opponent's strengths and weaknesses. I am sure that the FFA will make sure that we have the best possible preparation."

The experienced trio of Raul Blanco, Rale Rasic and Les Scheinflug believe that qualification is possible for the Socceroos in 2006

The irony is of course that Australia's only appearance at a World Cup was in Germany in 1974. The world's most popular sporting event returns to Germany and, with history repeating itself, so too should the Socceroos be there.

"We have one of the best midfields in the world," said Scheinflug. "And two absolutely world class strikers, so the only question mark remains in defence. However, we definitely have the material to qualify.

"The preparation is the key but it should have been underway four years ago after the last loss to Uruguay. Any potential opponent such as Colombia, Chile, Uruguay etc should already be monitored," said the most successful national youth coach in Australian football history.

"We need people in South America taking down all the data and information and reporting back to the national coach. Then the coach needs to watch each potential opponent a few times himself and therefore be sure of the system that he needs to play."

"On video you don't see the full picture, such as what players are doing behind the ball, so it is essential that the national coach watches all possible opponents," Scheinflug stated.

Meanwhile Rasic, who is in the process of finalising his autobiography and is still the only person to have actually led Australia in a World Cup, was emphatic that Australia should qualify.

"I don't care what system we play with, as long as we qualify," he stated. "As far as I am concerned Frank Farina can play with a goalkeeper up front if he likes. The important thing is that it is an exam; so then we need to find the formula and play.

"A coach has to know what his players have for breakfast and what his opponents have for lunch. The coach's own research is the most important thing.

"I would be surprised if Frank Farina didn't know every player in South America, every tactical possibility, every variation and so on.

"Remember this is not a matter of getting a result in a tournament, it is just over two games. I don't care how we qualify as long as we get there because, like many people, I don't want to hear excuses," Rasic said.

Indeed. Excuses will not be acceptable, but the reality for the football loving public is that 2005 will be just as difficult as 2001 and 1993. If Australia qualifies it will be a well deserved return to the world's main stage. After all, we'll have waited 32 long years.

Bingley signing nears Sydney FC revolution

Matthew Bingley: Sydney FC's utility player

Former Socceroo Matthew Bingley has filled the 19th spot in Sydney FC's squad for the upcoming A-League leaving the club with the final task of signing a marquee player.

Bingley first came under the gaze of Sydney FC head coach Pierre Littbarski in 1997 while playing for Japanese club Vissel Kobe in the J-League, a competition the German World Cup-winning star helped establish.

Littbarski watched the 31-year-old in action for his NSW Premier League side Central Coast United last weekend and pursued the player, who plays both in the midfield and defence.

The signing ends a series of trials run by Littbarski to fill vacant holes and comes on the day the Football Federation Australia (FFA) required all teams to sign up non-contracted or marquee players.

Extra time is available to secure the signatures of these players.

"For me we now have a senior squad, he (Bingley) is a utility player, he can play the first half as a centre and the second as a back and in the forwards and that is what we need," Littbarski said.

"He is accepted by the squad because he was a national player and has played with many of them before."

Bingley is also a former Perth Glory player of the year.

Littbarski rated the chance of signing former Manchester United striker and Trinidad and Tobago international Dwight Yorke as the club's marquee player as "50-50".

"I have talked to the (Sydney FC) chairman (Walter Bugno) and I would like to finish it as soon as possible so I'm not 100 per cent happy but we can't push it," he said.

"We are still talking so we will see."

"He has a different offer from a different country with much more money but money is not everything, you can only eat three meals a day and Australia is a beautiful country and Sydney is a beautiful city."

Six weeks remain until the Australian Club World Championship Qualifying Tournament from May 7 to 14.

The event will decide which A-League team will represent Australia at the FIFA World Club Championship oceanic qualifiers in Tahiti in August.

Teams that qualify for Tokyo will receive $A1.27 million.

ADELAIDE SNAPS UP YOUNGSTERS

A-League side Adelaide United have beaten the transfer deadline to land Enfield City pair Adam van Dommelle and Robert Cornthwaite.

Van Dommelle, a former Australian youth international spent some time in England before coming back to South Australia.

United have two places remaining for an international player and an U20, with Chinese international Shengqing Qu to fill the former.

"Excluding the goalkeepers, most of the players we have brought in can play in two or three roles and that's what I wanted," coach John Kosmina told The Advertiser.

Adam van Dommelle: Adelaide United have snapped up the promising young defender

Anti-siphoning back down

Labor has backed down on changes to laws to ensure the Football World Cup is permanently available to free-to-air broadcasters.

The Senate last week passed an amendment to new anti-siphoning laws, which give pay TV operators such as Foxtel an even greater chance to snap up the rights to major sporting events.

The anti-siphoning list prevents pay-TV licensees from acquiring the rights to broadcast events of national importance before free-to-air broadcasters have had an opportunity to obtain the rights.

The current list includes iconic events such as the Melbourne Cup, AFL and NRL grand finals and Test and one-day cricket matches involving Australia.

But Labor secured Senate support for an amendment preventing the government from de-listing the football World Cup in the event that free-to-air broadcasters did not acquire the rights.

The government rejected the amendment in the House of Representatives and Labor did not insist on the change, letting the bill pass the Senate unchanged.

Opposition communications spokesman Stephen Conroy said he was disappointed the government did not accept the amendment.

But Communications Minister Helen Coonan said the changes were unnecessary and would have had other unintended impacts on the legislation.

Senator Coonan said the government had already responded to soccer fans by adding the 2010 World Cup to the anti-siphoning list.

"The government has consistently stated it is monitoring the operation of the anti-siphoning scheme to ensure it ... balances competing interests," she said.

The Australian Democrats also did not insist on their amendments.

Bad Baiano banned for Robbery gesture

Brazilian former World Cup defender Junior Baiano was banned for five matches for a gesture he made after being sent off during a game for Flamengo last month.

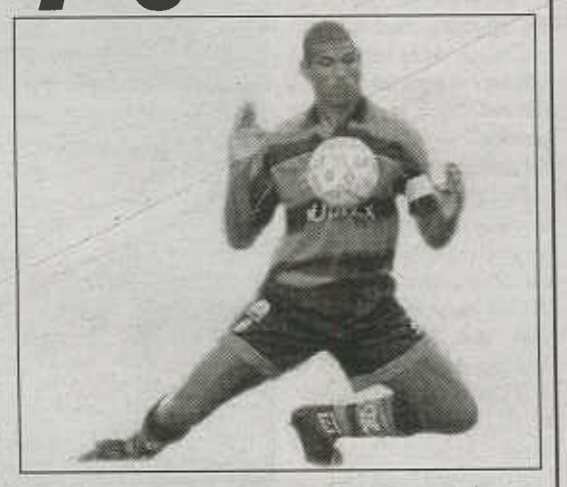
Baiano, 35, made a gesture with his hand which in Brazil is interpreted as robbery after being sent off during the game against Volta Redonda in the Carioca championship.

A disciplinary tribunal banned him for three matches for "moral offence" and two matches for "disrespect."

Baiano, ever-present as Brazil finished runners-up in the 1998 World Cup, has had a chequered career.

He was once sacked by German club Werder Bremen after being banned for 10 matches for punching an opponent and in 2001 was banned for 120 days after testing positive for cocaine when he was with Vasco da Gama in Brazil.

He said at the time that he was a victim of sabotage and that somebody might have spiked his food or drink in the days before the match.



Junior Balano is seeing more than red after making a gesture with his hand which in Brazil is interpreted as robbery.

Mourinho blamed for referee furore

UEFA referees' chief Volker Roth claims Jose Mourinho and managers like him who stoke up fans against referees are causing a crisis in football.

Roth said young officials were turning their backs on the game because of the sort of pressure which forced Swedish official Anders Frisk to quit last week.

"The problem is that at grass-roots level fewer people want to become referees because they are only going to be discriminated against. Who is going to do that if you are going to get abused?" he told the London Evening Standard.

"It is difficult to get new referees when reporters, TV and coaches are constantly laying into them. Young people say: 'I'm not going to do that.'"

Mourinho has threatened to sue Roth for branding him an "enemy of football" and blaming him for inciting the death threats which forced Frisk to quit following Chelsea's controversial Champions League first leg match with Barcelona.

But Roth refuses to back down and despite calls from Chelsea to distance themselves from the German official's remarks, UEFA said they are considering taking disciplinary action against Mourinho for his latest outburst.

"It's about more respect, respect, respect. And that's an education issue. It can't be just all about money. It's about football. If you only see the money, you are going to destroy the game," Roth said.

Chelsea star Frank Lampard defended his manager.

"We're behind him whatever happens. We'd do anything for Jose and that's how it should be," he said.

Chelsea coach Jose Mourinho has been labelled an "enemy of football" by UEFA referees' chief Volker Roth.

POLICTICS OVER FOOTBALL FOR UKRAINE COACH

Oleg Blokhin quit as Ukraine coach last week, saying he could not combine the post with his job as member of parliament, but top soccer officials were trying to find a way to keep him on.

The head of Ukraine's soccer federation, Grigory Surkis, said the federation's board had voted 14 to 10 to accept Blokhin's resignation with three abstentions.

He said, however, that he saw no obvious successor and would try to persuade Blokhin to remain in view of the team's World Cup qualifying campaign.

The 52-year-old Blokhin, European Player of the Year in 1975, told fellow MPs he had decided to quit his coaching job to keep his seat in the assembly.

Blokhin was elected as a Communist but switched to another party backing former President Leonid Kuchma, who stepped down in January. He was named national coach in September 2003, replacing fellow ex-Soviet international Leonid Buryak, who was sacked following a string of poor results.

Immediately after his appointment, the former Soviet and Dynamo Kiev striker said his goal was to guide the country to their first major international finals and he was on the verge of doing that when he quit.

Ukraine top European World Cup qualifying Group Two with 14 points from six matches, six ahead of European champions Greece and on course to reach the tournament in Germany next year.

However, Blokhin's resignation deals a blow to Ukraine's chances of topping the group and comes just a week before they host Denmark in their next qualifier on March 30.

"The Ukrainian national team has been left without its main coach," Surkis told a news conference.

"I want to use all possible powers of persuasion, along with public opinion and journalists, to persuade Oleg Vladimirovich that he must remain for the sake of the fatherland."

Ukraine's constitution bars deputies from holding other jobs and parliament had threatened to take court action to strip him of his seat.

Blokhin had a glittering playing career. He played 18 seasons for Dynamo Kiev between 1970 and 1987, most of them under the late Valery Lobanovsky.

He won eight Soviet league titles and the 1975 and 1986 European Cup Winners' Cups. He played in the 1982 and 1986 World Cups.

Blokhin, who still holds the all-time Soviet league scoring record with 211 goals in 432 games, coached several Greek clubs, including Olympiakos, PAOK Salonika and Ionikos, after retiring in 1990.

Oleg Blokhin is staying in parliament after deciding to step down as Ukraine coach.

NO MORE FOR BATI-GOL

Argentina's record international goalscorer Gabriel Batistuta has blamed a lack of enthusiasm for his decision to retire at the age of 36.

The former Fiorentina and AS Roma striker, whose haul of 56 goals in 78 internationals included 10 at World Cups, announced his decision from Qatar, where he had been playing for Al Arabi since August 2003.

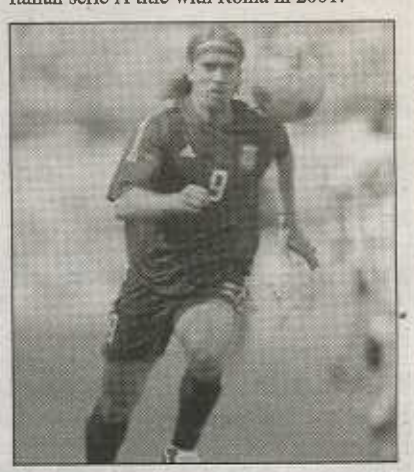
"Everything has a end," he told Argentine television. "Training for me was not the same any more, my enthusiasm was waning.

"So the time arrived to say goodbye to football. I'm ready for other challenges.

"I told the club that the motivation I once had was not there any more and we reached an agreement."

Batistuta missed out on World Cup glory at three attempts in 1994, 1998 and 2002 after twice winning the Copa America with Argentina in 1991 and 1993.

He broke several Italian scoring records during a decade at Fiorentina and won the Italian serie A title with Roma in 2001.



Argentine legend Gabriel Batistuta is hanging up his boots, citing a lack of enthusiasm for his decision.

GRAVESEN REMORSEFUL AFTER SEASON ENDING TACKLE

Real Madrid's Danish international Thomas Gravesen has apologised for the tackle that could have put Getafe midfielder Gabi Fernandez out for the rest of the season.

Gabi had to leave the field during Getafe's 2-1 win over Real, and doctors later revealed that the 21-year-old has damaged the ligaments in his left knee, and will need two to three months to recover. The season ends in May.

"It was a strong challenge but I never set out to injure anyone, especially playing football. I feel terrible that Gabi is injured and all I can say is sorry. I am only interested in winning games, not hurting people," Gravesen told Radio Marca.

"It is always sad when someone gets injured, but these things happen in football."

Gravesen received a yellow card for the tackle.

Since joining Real from Everton in the January transfer window, the 29-year-old has added some bite to Real's midfield and has been one of the side's better performers in recent weeks.

Getafe coach Quique Sanchez Flores said: "If Gabi's injury is serious it will be too high a price to pay for the victory we have achieved."

The Spain Under-21 international, on loan from Atletico Madrid, has been a key figure in Getafe's fight to avoid relegation in their first season in the top flight.

Real Madrid strongman Thomas Gravesen (front) is sorry for a tackle which has all but ended the season of Getafe midfielder Gabi Fernandez.

English Reports

BOLTON 1
NORWICH CITY 0

Bolton stayed firmly on course for UEFA Cup football next season while bottom club Norwich look ever more destined for relegation after a short stay in the top flight.

Greece midfielder Stelios Giannakopoulos won it for Sam Allardyce's men, arrowing in a superb angled shot from the edge of the penalty area just before halftime.

BLACKBURN 0
ARSENAL 1

Dutchman Robin van Persie made up for his red card at Southampton last month with the winning goal in a dress rehearsal for next month's FA Cup semi-final.

The injury-hit champions, already without the likes of Thierry Henry, Robert Pires and Dennis Bergkamp, lost Freddie Ljungberg to injury in the pre-match warm-up, allowing Van Persie the chance to start.

Three minutes before halftime Van Persie spun smoothly on to a pass from Ashley Cole, glided past keeper Brad Friedel and slotted the winner. He almost doubled the lead after the break, clipping the crossbar with a left-foot curler.

CHARLTON 1
WEST BROM 4

West Brom's hopes of avoiding the drop are still alive after striker Robert Earnshaw came on as a second-half substitute to score a hat-trick against 10-man Charlton.

Charlton were behind after only nine minutes when Geoff Horsfield headed home following great work by Hungarian Zoltan Gera. Finnish striker Jonatan Johansson hit a 24th minute equaliser but the hosts were rocked five minutes later by a red card for Moroccan defender Talal El Karkouri after a bad challenge on Gera.

Robert Earnshaw notched his first in the 73rd minute and followed up with another from a one-on-one with keeper Dean Kiely before bringing up his hat-trick with a 90th minute penalty.

CHELSEA 4
CRYSTAL PALACE 1

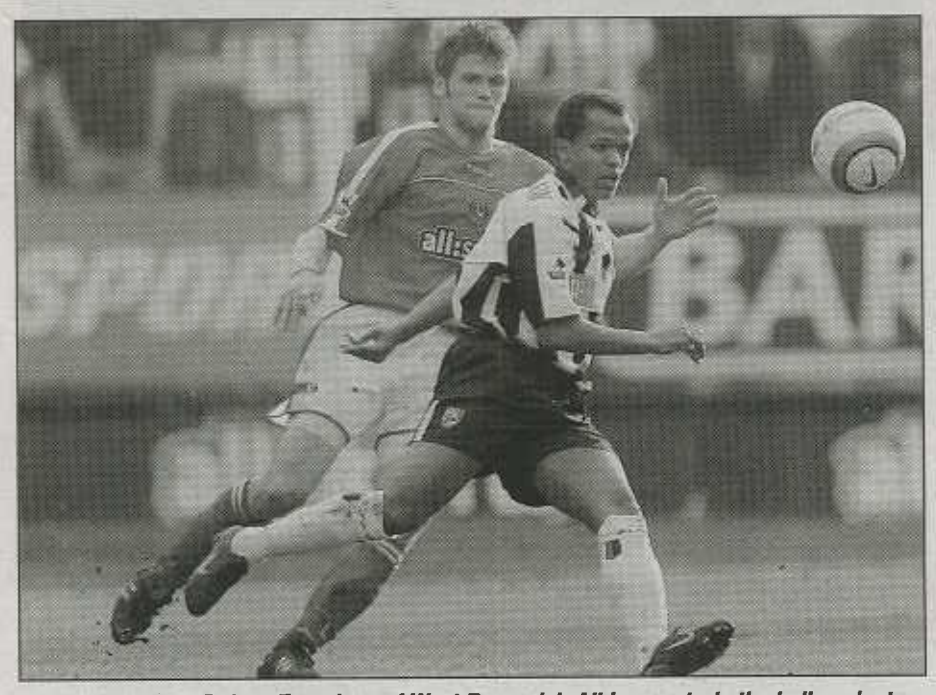
Chelsea continued a seemingly unstoppable march to their first Premier League title in 50 years against a Palace side still haunted by the threat of relegation.

It was a bitter-sweet game for England midfielder Frank Lampard, who gave Chelsea a 29th minute lead with a spectacular long-range shot but whose mis-kicked clearance from a corner enabled Palace's Finnish midfielder Aki Riihilahti to equalise on 42 minutes.

Palace striker Andy Johnson missed a sitter just before the break and they paid the price in the 54th minute when Joe Cole got the ball from Eidur Gudjohnsen on the edge of the area and sent his shot past keeper Gabor Kiraly. Substitute Mateja Kezman then added two more, though Kiraly should have stopped the first one.

MANCHESTER UTD 1
FULHAM 0

Alex Ferguson's men did enough to return to second place in the table, leapfrogging champions Arsenal after their victory over Rovers in the early kickoff at Ewood Park.



Hat-trick hero Robert Earnshaw of West Bromwich Albion controls the ball against Charlton last weekend

Portugal winger Cristiano Ronaldo, fed by skipper Roy Keane, fired United into a 21st minute lead and it proved good enough for all three points in a game where United's England striker Wayne Rooney lacked his usual sparkle.

The hosts lived dangerously in the closing stages when Fulham's Lee Clark hit the woodwork and former United striker Andy Cole missed a late chance to deny his old club the win.

PORTSMOUTH 1
NEWCASTLE UTD 1

After reaching the UEFA Cup quarter-finals and FA Cup semi-finals, Newcastle were brought down to earth by Portsmouth in a dour midfield battle at Fratton Park.

Both sides scored in the closing minutes of the first half, Newcastle taking the lead when Kieron Dyer headed in a Lee Bowyer cross and Pompey forward Lomana LuaLua bustling through to send in a ball for Steve Stone to steer home the equaliser.

TOTTENHAM 2
MANCHESTER CITY 1

Tottenham looked destined for only a point at White Hart Lane until Ireland striker Robbie Keane came on to poach a late winner from close range.

Jermain Defoe headed Spurs in front but they were pegged back just before the break when Robbie Fowler chipped the ball in and U.S. midfielder Claudio Reyna netted a fine volley.

Keane poached the winner after 84 minutes to give Stuart Pearce a losing start as City's caretaker boss.

BIRMINGHAM CITY 2
ASTON VILLA 0

Second-half goals from Emile Heskey and Julian Gray sealed a deserved but uninspiring Midlands derby win, albeit with the help of a goalkeeping blunder.

Villa's Peruvian midfielder Nolberto Solano came closest in the first half with a free kick which City keeper Maik Taylor just tipped on to the post. Heskey scored on 52 minutes, latching on to Walter Pandiani's pass and muscling past two defenders to hit a shot which keeper Thomas Sorensen let slip beneath him. Gray sealed the win with a close range finish in the 89th minute after some poor defending by Villa.

LIVERPOOL 2
EVERTON 1

Liverpool joined the race for fourth spot with an important win at Anfield, despite hanging on with 10 men after a late red card for Czech striker Milan Baros at Anfield.

Skipper Steven Gerrard, teed up by midfield partner Dietmar Hamann at a free kick on the edge of the area, fired Liverpool into a 27th minute lead through a packed goalmouth.

Luis Garcia headed the second five minutes later, pouncing on the rebound after Everton keeper Nigel Martyn tipped Fernando Morientes's dipping half-volley on to the crossbar. Liverpool held on despite Baros being dismissed for a high lunge on Everton skipper Alan Stubbs on 77 minutes and Tim Cahill pulling one back for the visitors in a tense finish.

MIDDLESBROUGH 1
SOUTHAMPTON 3

A double strike midway through the second half from lanky forward Peter Crouch gave Southampton a welcome first away win of the season and moved them out of the relegation zone.

Swedish defender Andreas Jakobsson gave Southampton a 14th minute lead, finishing at the far post after Henri Camara played the ball across the face of goal following a free kick.

Boro's Dutch striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink levelled before the break but Crouch's double strike, a 60th minute header and 67th minute volley, eased those relegation worries.

Bolton goalscorer Stelios Giannakopoulos (left) and Gary Holt of Norwich challenge for the ball

EPL FIXTURES

Saturday, April 2nd, 2005

Charlton	v	Manchester City
Aresnal	v	Norwich
Birmingham	v	Tottenham
Crystal Palace	v	Middlesbrough
Liverpool	v	Bolton
Manchester United	v	Blackburn
Newcastle United	v	Aston Villa
Southampton	v	Chelsea

Sunday, April 3, 2005

Fulham	v	Portsmouth
West Brom	v	Everton

Premier League

Blackburn 0 Arsenal 1, Charlton 1 West Bromwich 4, Chelsea 4 Crystal Palace 1, Manchester Utd 1 Fulham 0, Portsmouth 1 Newcastle Utd 1, Tottenham 2 Manchester City 1, Bolton 1 Norwich 0, Birmingham 2 Aston Villa 0, Middlesbrough 1 Southampton 3, Liverpool 2 Everton 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	**30**	**24**	**5**	**1**	**58**	**10**	**77**
Man Utd	30	19	9	2	48	17	66
Arsenal	30	19	7	4	68	32	64
Everton	30	15	6	9	35	32	51
Liverpool	30	14	5	11	43	31	47
Bolton	30	13	7	10	38	34	46
Charlton	30	12	7	11	35	42	43
Tottenham	30	12	6	12	37	34	42
Middlesbrough	30	11	9	10	44	42	42
Newcastle	29	9	11	9	41	45	38
Aston Villa	30	10	8	12	34	39	38
Man City	30	9	9	12	35	34	36
Birmingham	30	9	8	13	33	37	35
Blackburn	30	7	11	12	25	37	32
Portsmouth	30	8	7	15	32	46	31
Fulham	29	8	6	15	33	47	30
Southampton	30	5	12	13	33	45	27
Crystal Palace	30	6	8	16	33	49	26
West Brom	30	4	12	14	29	51	24
Norwich	30	3	11	16	29	59	20

Football League Championship

West Ham 2 Leicester 2, Cardiff 1 Crewe 1, Gillingham 0 Ipswich 0, Notts Forest 1 Wigan 1, Rotherham 0 QPR 1, Sheffield Utd 2 Burnley 1, Sunderland 1 Coventry 0, Watford 0 Preston NE 2, Wolverhampton 1 Stoke 1, Millwall 3 Plymouth 0, Brighton & Hove vs Reading – Tuesday AEDT.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sunderland	**39**	**24**	**6**	**9**	**64**	**34**	**78**
Wigan	39	22	10	7	70	30	76
Ipswich	39	21	10	8	69	44	73
Preston	39	18	10	11	55	50	64
Derby	38	17	10	11	56	47	61
Sheff Utd	38	16	10	12	47	47	58
Reading	38	15	12	11	43	35	57
West Ham	38	16	8	14	53	49	56
QPR	38	16	8	14	47	46	56
Millwall	39	15	10	14	41	35	55
Stoke	38	15	10	13	29	27	55
Leeds	39	13	14	12	44	42	53
Wolverhampton	39	11	18	10	58	52	51
Burnley	38	12	13	13	30	34	49
Watford	39	10	15	14	47	51	45
Crewe	39	11	12	16	57	70	45
Leicester	37	9	17	11	39	38	44
Plymouth	39	12	8	19	46	58	44
Brighton	38	12	8	18	33	54	44
Cardiff	38	10	12	16	39	42	42
Gillingham	39	11	9	19	38	58	42
Coventry	39	10	11	18	47	62	41
Notts Forest	38	8	14	16	36	54	38
Rotherham	39	4	13	22	29	58	25

Football League One

Tranmere 5 Peterborough 0, Barnsley 1 Milton Keyes 1, Blackpool 1 Doncaster 1, Bournemouth 0 Hull 4, Bradford 1 Hartlepool 2, Brentford 2 Chesterfield 2, Colchester 1 Sheffield Wed 1, Huddersfield 5 Stockport 3, Oldham 2 Luton 2, Port Vale 2 Walsall 0, Swindon 4 Wrexham 2, Torquay 0 Bristol 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luton	**38**	**23**	**10**	**5**	**70**	**38**	**79**
Hull	38	24	6	8	72	42	78
Tranmere	37	19	11	7	63	43	68
Sheffield Wed	38	18	12	8	69	46	66
Hartlepool	37	19	4	14	62	53	61
Bournemouth	38	17	9	12	66	52	60
Brentford	36	17	8	11	45	46	59
Bristol City	38	14	14	10	64	49	56
Swindon	38	16	8	14	61	56	56
Doncaster	38	13	14	11	47	46	53
Bradford	38	14	11	13	51	53	53
Chesterfield	38	13	12	13	49	53	51
Barnsley	38	11	16	11	55	49	49
Huddersfield	38	13	9	16	59	61	48
Blackpool	37	12	10	15	48	50	46
Port Vale	38	14	4	20	40	51	46
Colchester	38	11	12	15	49	44	45
Walsall	38	11	11	16	49	62	44
Oldham	38	11	7	20	51	65	40
Milton Keynes Dons	38	9	13	16	45	61	40
Torquay	38	8	13	17	44	69	37
Wrexham	38	11	13	14	51	69	36
Peterborough	37	7	10	20	44	60	31
Stockport	38	6	7	25	44	80	25

ITALIAN SERIE A

Italian Affair

By Joe Russo

It must have been sweet revenge for Fabio Capello last week as his Juventus side managed to overcome Real Madrid at the Delle Alpi Stadium in Turin.

Capello, of course a former Real Madrid coach, must surely have had his doubts after seeing his side so comprehensively outplayed at the Bernabeu two weeks earlier.

Despite the 1-0 scoreline that day in favour of Real, which may have conveyed the impression of a close contest, it really was a game that the Spanish dominated.

Meanwhile AC Milan, thanks to another Hernan Crespo goal, overcame Man Utd at the San Siro Stadium in Milan. Unfortunately for Man Utd it doesn't look like it is going to be their season.

AC Milan and Juventus are both still on course to achieve the double - the Champions League and the Serie A Scudetto. While AC Milan have certainly been the better of the two teams in recent weeks, Italian Affair still suspects that Juventus will at least claim the Scudetto.

★ ★ ★ ★

Tuscany is a region that is renowned world wide for many things: art, culture, history, cuisine and, of course, wine. Yes, it is hard to beat the Chianti! However, in recent years football has become the specialty of the region.

In the Serie A we have Fiorentina, Livorno and Siena flying the flag for the region. In the Serie B there is Arezzo and Empoli and in the Serie C1 there is Pistoiese, Lucchese, Pisa and Prato. Not bad for a region that is not really that well known for its football.

These nine teams receive a lot of media exposure in the local area as well as in Italy in general.

One of the interesting things is that Tuscany has its own radio station that religiously, every Sunday afternoon, follows these local teams. It is simply called Radio 4 and it peaks at an astonishing 800,000 listeners.

Let's remember that in Italy radio is traditional medium. The nationwide football program "Tutto il calcio" (All the football), broadcast on the national RAI radio network, is still as popular today as ever. Therefore the popularity of Radio 4's show, similar in format to its more famous rival, is even more astonishing.

There are nevertheless some pertinent reasons why. Firstly, let us not forget that football is followed fanatically in Italy. Secondly, live football matches are still not shown on a Sunday afternoon on free to air television. And, thirdly, the local content is a major force behind Radio 4's success.

Their live call and updates are based primarily on these Tuscan teams.

Fiorentina, Siena and Livorno may not be setting the Serie A alight but compared to only a few years, when all three were in the lower divisions, it is a major improvement.

Empoli, well known to Australian football fans because of their past links with Mark Bresciano and Vince Grella, have been regularly in and out of the Serie A for the last eight years or so. It looks like that they will return to the Serie A next season.

Arezzo may not be a household name and are currently struggling in the Serie B, but C1 outfits Pisa and Pistoiese all enjoyed Serie A stints in the 1980s. So the next time you are in Tuscany; a game of football might be on the agenda as well as the usual art and culture visits.

★ ★ ★ ★

Sampdoria continue to enjoy a fairytale return to the Serie A and should they keep up current form they will play in the Champions League next season.

Not that the Champions League is anything new to Sampdoria. In 1992 they were defeated in the final by a red-hot Barcelona at Wembley by a lone Ronald Koeman goal from a free kick.

It was the golden era of Sampdoria. In 1991 of course they won the Scudetto, their one and only Serie A league title. They won the old Cup Winners' Cup in 1990, the Coppa Italia in 1985, 88, 89 and 94 and then reached that famous final at Wembley in 1992.

The golden era was thanks in no small way to players such as Gianluca Vialli, Roberto Mancini and Attilio Lombardo. Their coach during that period was the well known Yugoslav Vujadin Boskov.

Today's Sampdoria is no where near glamorous, at least on paper, but under the guidance of the astute Walter Novellino and without much fuss at all, have really made their return season in the Serie A a most successful one indeed.

★ ★ ★ ★

Sydney readers can tune into 98.5 FM on Sunday nights at 10.00pm for all the latest soccer news from the local and overseas competitions. Yours truly, Joseph Carlucci, Stuart Jones, John Romeo, Robert Scarselletta and Mark Stavroulakis are part of the team.

Getty Images 2004

Juventus star striker Alessandro Del Piero celebrates his goal against Reggina

AS ROMA 0
AC MILAN 2

AC Milan returned to the top of Serie A with a 2-0 win at the expense of nine-man Roma.

Hernan Crespo's header and Andrea Pirlo's penalty in the second half lifted the defending champions ahead of Juventus on goal difference in what is a two-horse race for the Scudetto.

Roma's Christian Panucci was sent off for the handball that led to the penalty and he was later joined by Francesco Totti for a petulant kick at an opponent.

It was a miserable first Serie A match in charge for Roma coach Bruno Conti who took the reins after Luigi Del Neri quit last week.

INTER MILAN 3
FIORENTINA 2

Inter were made to endure a nervy last few minutes at the San Siro before holding on for a thrilling 3-2 victory against relegation-threatened Fiorentina.

The home side looked to be in control until Ivan Cordoba's own-goal three minutes from time set up a tense finale.

Earlier on Esteban Cambiasso had given Inter the lead before Giampaolo Pazzini equalised with a spectacular effort for the Florence club just before half-time.

A superb strike by Juan Sebastian Veron eight minutes into the second half restored the Nerazzurri's lead before Cordoba's header looked to have given Roberto Mancini's men a little breathing space.

UDINESE 2
LECCE 1

David Di Michele scored twice - the second coming a minute from time - to send Udinese into the Champions League positions with a narrow victory over 10-man Lecce at the Stadio Friuli.

The in-form striker, who plundered a hat-trick in his side's magnificent 5-1 mauling of rivals Palermo last weekend, netted his ninth and 10th league goals of the season to see off the plucky visitors.

SAMPDORIA 1
ATALANTA 2

Atalanta can be forgiven for believing they now have a genuine chance of avoiding relegation, after they picked up their first away win of their Serie A campaign at Champions League-chasing Sampdoria.

Cesare Natali hit the winner for the rock-bottom visitors halfway through the second half after Cristiano Doni had cancelled out Stephen Makinwa's third-minute strike for Atalanta.

It was not Sampdoria's day, and the hosts missed a first-half penalty through Francesco Flachi to add to their woes

CHIEVO 3
BRESCIA 1

Sergio Pellissier struck a late brace for Chievo to give them a vital 3-1 victory against relegation rivals Brescia.

Chievo had to come from behind to claim the win, as Victor Mareco's 17th minute goal gave the visitors a slender lead at the break.

Lorenzo D'Anna equalised with a penalty on the hour mark, and then Pellissier scored after 81 and 87 minutes to give Chievo all three points.

LIVORNO 3
CAGLIARI 3

Livorno and Cagliari both edged towards safety with a point apiece in a 3-3 draw but the hosts will be kicking themselves for failing to take all three.

Livorno, who played most of the match with 10 men following the first-half sending-off of Fabio Galante, looked to be on the verge of a famous victory until Nelson Abeijon struck for Cagliari in stoppage time.

Earlier goals from Christiano Lucarelli and Igor Protti had given the hosts a 2-0 lead only for Honduran international David Suazo to level at 2-2 with two goals for the Sardinians, the second from the penalty spot.

PARMA 3
PALERMO 3

Nine-man Parma were knocked to the canvas but they continued to fight and earned a 3-3 draw against Palermo.

The Gialloblu fell behind after a 13th minute Paolo Cannavaro own-goal, but pulled level six minutes later with a strike from Domenico Morfeo.

The visitors from Sicily, however, then claimed a 3-1 lead as Luca Toni converted a penalty - Cannavaro was sent off for bringing Toni down in the area - and Franco Brienza added another.

But Alberto Gilardino, whose scoring ability has made him one of the most sought-after strikers in European football, pulled one back with a spot-kick of his own four minutes after Brienza's strike.

And after a red card for Matteo Contini two minutes from the end left the Gialloblu with only nine players, Gilardino saved his relegation-threatened side with an injury-time equaliser.

MESSINA 0
BOLOGNA 0

Messina and Bologna both had to settle for a point in a mid-table battle where ambition was lacking on both sides.

Few risks were taken by either side during the 90 minutes and the goalless draw leaves Bologna and Messina respectively nine and seven points clear of trouble with nine matches to play.

SERIE A FIXTURES

Sunday APRIL 4th

AC Milan	vs.	Brescia
Atalanta	vs.	Chievo Verona
Bologna	vs.	Inter Milan
Fiorentina	vs.	Juventus
Lazio	vs.	Livorno
Palermo	vs.	Messina
Reggina	vs.	Parma
Udinese	vs.	AS Roma
Cagliari	vs.	Sampdoria
Lecce	vs.	Siena

SIENA 1
LAZIO 0

Croatian Igor Tudor's header on the hour gave struggling Siena a much-needed win over Lazio.

After a poor first-half Tudor rose to head home a corner from former Lazio striker Enrico Chiesa to put Siena ahead against a side coached by ex-Siena boss Giuseppe Papadopulo.

JUVENTUS 1
REGGINA 0

Juve struggled against a determined and well-organised Reggina side but took control after the break when Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic hit the bar with a header from a Mauro Camoranesi cross.

Moments later Alessandro Del Piero crashed a fine shot from the edge of the area against the bar as Juventus again went close to a breakthrough -- that finally came when Ibrahimovic played Del Piero on with a smart back-heel and the striker coolly drove home from inside the area.

SERIE A

Siena 1 Lazio 0, Juventus 1 Reggina 0, Chievo Verona 3 Brescia 1, Inter Milan 3 Fiorentina 2, Livorno 3 Cagliari 3, Messina 0 Bologna 0, Parma 3 Palermo 3, Sampdoria 1 Atalanta 2, Udinese 2 Lecce 1, Roma 0 AC Milan 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Milan	**29**	**20**	**6**	**3**	**49**	**17**	**66**
2Juventus	29	20	6	3	47	16	66
3Inter Milan	29	11	17	1	53	35	50
4Udinese	29	14	6	9	43	29	48
5Sampdoria	29	14	5	10	32	23	47
6Palermo	29	11	11	7	34	29	44
7Bologna	29	9	11	9	28	26	38
8Roma	29	10	8	11	46	45	38
9Cagliari	29	10	8	11	44	48	38
10Lecce	29	9	9	11	49	51	36
11Livorno	29	9	9	11	34	40	36
12Messina	29	9	9	11	32	40	36
13Reggina	29	9	8	12	28	34	35
14Lazio	29	9	7	13	35	39	34
15Fiorentina	29	7	10	12	31	40	31
16Chievo	29	8	7	14	24	40	31
17Parma	29	7	9	13	33	48	30
18Siena	29	5	14	10	28	42	29
19Brescia	29	7	5	17	24	40	26
20Atalanta	29	5	9	15	26	38	24

SERIE B

Albinoleffe 2 Treviso 2, Verona 0 Triestina 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Genoa	**30**	**15**	**11**	**4**	**53**	**-32**	**56**
2. Empoli	30	13	12	5	43	-25	51
3. Treviso	30	14	7	9	39	-32	49
4. Perugia	30	13	9	8	36	-25	48
5. Torino	30	14	6	10	32	-25	48
6. Verona	30	13	8	9	50	-36	47
7. Ascoli	30	12	9	9	42	-40	45
8. Piacenza	30	13	4	13	33	-34	43
9. Albinoleffe	30	11	9	10	42	-36	42
10. Ternana	30	10	11	9	36	-37	41
11. Cesena	30	11	8	11	35	-41	41
12. Catania	30	9	13	8	31	-34	40
13. Vicenza	30	11	6	13	46	-50	39
14. Pescara	30	9	12	9	32	-38	39
15. Modena	30	11	8	11	30	-29	37
16. Triestina	30	10	7	13	33	-40	37
17. Salernitana	30	9	9	12	36	-40	36
18. Bari	30	8	12	10	27	-29	35
19. Arezzo	30	6	14	10	39	41	32
20. Crotone	30	7	10	13	30	-35	28
21. Venezia	30	5	10	15	24	-41	25
22. Catanzaro	30	5	7	18	25	-54	22

Modena handed four point deduction. Bari docked a point for fan violence.

ABSW

WORLD

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals
First leg - April 5-6
Second leg - April 12-13

*Liverpool vs Juventus
-AC Milan vs Inter Milan
-Bayern Munich vs Chelsea
*PSV vs Lyon

Semi-finals
First leg - April 26-27
Second leg - May 3-4
Chelsea/Bayern vs Liverpool/Juventus
AC Milan/Inter vs Lyon/PSV
Final:
May 25, Istanbul

*Playing Tuesday April 5th
-Playing Wednesday April 6th

UEFA CUP

SECOND KNOCKOUT STAGE

Quarter-finals
First leg - April 7
Second leg - April 14

Villarreal vs AZ Alkmaar
CSKA Moscow vs Auxerre
Newcastle vs Sporting Lisbon
Austria Vienna vs Parma

Semi-finals
First leg - April 28
Second leg - May 5

Vienna/Parma vs CSKA/Auxerre

Newcastle/Sporting vs Villarreal/Alkmaar

Final
May 18, Lisbon

Alan Shearer shown scoring one of Newcastle's four-goals in their victory over Olympiakos

UEFA CUP

BELGIAN JUPILER LEAGUE

Mons-Bergen 1 Racing Genk 2,Anderlecht 3 Brussels 0, Club Bruges 0 Lokeren 0, Germinal Beerschot 1 La Louviere 1, Westerlo 1 Standard Liege 3, Ghent 1 Lierse 0, Beveren 1 Charleroi 2, St Truiden 0 Cercle Bruges 1, Oostende 1 Excelsior Mouscron 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Club Brugge	26	20	4	2	66	18	64
2Anderlecht	25	17	4	4	54	23	55
3Standard	26	16	5	5	45	22	53
4Genk	26	15	6	5	40	28	51
5AA Gent	26	15	4	7	38	25	49
6Charleroi	26	13	7	6	32	26	46
7Westerlo	26	11	4	11	28	39	37
8La Louvière	25	10	7	8	33	23	37
9Lokeren	26	8	10	8	27	28	34
10Cercle	26	9	4	13	37	61	31
11Beveren	26	8	6	12	37	43	30
12Lierse	26	8	5	13	40	49	29
13Beerschot	26	7	6	13	26	31	27
14Mouscron	26	6	6	14	32	38	24
15Truiden	26	6	6	14	28	42	24
16Oostende	26	5	7	14	25	48	22
17Brussels	26	6	2	18	23	51	20
18Mons	26	5	3	18	31	47	18

DUTCH EREDIVISIE

Den Bosch 0 Roda JC 3, De Graafschap 0 RBC Roosendaal 1, NAC Breda 1 NEC Nijmegen 2, RKC Waalwijk 2 Feyenoord 4, AZ Alkmaar 3 Vitesse 0, Ajax 0 PSV Eindhoven 4, Groningen 1 Willem II 1, Twente 2 Den Haag 1, Utrecht 0 Heerenveen 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1PSV	26	21	4	1	70	13	67
2Alkmaar	25	18	6	1	59	18	60
3Ajax	25	16	5	4	51	25	53
4Feyenoord	25	15	5	5	70	30	50
5Vitesse	26	13	4	9	43	36	43
6Heerenveen	26	12	5	9	42	42	41
7Twente	26	12	5	9	35	29	41
8Utrecht	26	10	6	10	29	29	36
9Waalwijk	26	9	7	10	34	38	34
10Roda	26	9	6	11	45	43	33
11Groningen	26	9	6	11	35	41	33
12NAC	26	8	6	12	34	51	30
13Willem II	26	8	5	13	29	49	29
14Den Haag	26	7	5	14	30	43	26
15NEC	26	6	8	12	27	36	26
16Roosendaal	26	6	2	18	25	58	20
17Graafschap	26	4	6	16	27	58	18
18Den Bosch	25	2	3	20	13	59	9

ENGLAND FOOTBALL LGE 2

Bristol 4 Mansfield 4, Cambridge 2 Wycombe 1, Cheltenham 0 Southend 3, Chester 3 Notts County 2, Grimsby 0 Darlington 1, Kidderminster 0 Rushden & Diamonds 0, Lincoln 2 Shrewsbury 0, Macclesfield 3 Leyton Orient 1, Northampton 2 Swansea 2, Oxford 2 Boston 0, Rochdale 0 Scunthorpe 0, Yeovil 0 Bury 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yeovil	38	21	6	11	76	55	69
Scunthorpe	38	19	10	9	58	38	67
Macclesfield	37	20	6	11	53	37	66
Southend	38	18	11	9	54	40	65
Swansea	38	18	8	12	52	39	62
Darlington	38	17	9	12	46	39	60
Lincoln City	38	16	11	11	55	41	59
Northampton	38	15	12	11	50	45	57
Wycombe	38	15	11	12	49	44	56
Rochdale	38	14	13	11	44	41	55
Boston Utd	38	12	14	12	49	44	50
Grimsby	38	13	11	14	43	43	50
Cheltenham	38	13	11	14	39	41	50
Leyton Orient	38	12	14	12	51	54	50
Oxford Utd	37	14	8	15	41	47	50
Mansfield	38	12	13	13	43	42	49
Bristol Rovers	38	9	19	10	47	45	46
Bury	38	10	14	14	42	46	44
Notts County	38	11	10	17	37	53	43
Shrewsbury	38	10	11	17	42	47	41
Chester	38	9	14	15	36	60	41
Rushden	38	8	13	17	35	50	37
Kidderminster	38	9	6	23	32	66	33
Cambridge	38	6	13	19	35	52	31

FRENCH LIGUE 1

Toulouse 0 Sochaux 0, Strasbourg 0 Lyon 1, Bastia 1 Metz 0, Caen 2 Rennes 2, Istres 1 Nice 1, Lens 2 Bordeaux 0, Nantes 0 Ajaccio 0, Paris St Germain 1 Auxerre 0, Saint-Etienne 0 Lille 0, Monaco 2 Marseille 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Lyon	30	17	11	2	42	17	62
2Marseille	30	15	6	9	38	29	51
3Monaco	30	12	14	4	40	26	50
4Lille	30	12	13	5	33	21	49
5Auxerre	29	12	7	10	39	33	43
6Toulouse	29	11	10	8	29	27	43
7Sochaux	30	11	9	10	33	28	42
8St Etienne	30	9	14	7	37	27	41
9Lens	30	10	11	9	33	28	41
10Rennes	30	11	8	11	36	34	41
11Bordeaux	30	8	15	7	31	27	39
12PSG	30	9	12	9	29	32	39
13Nantes	30	8	10	12	24	28	34
14Nice	30	7	13	10	33	41	34
15Metz	30	7	12	11	25	36	33
16Strasbourg	30	7	11	12	31	35	32
17Caen	30	6	12	12	25	50	30
18Ajaccio	30	5	14	11	21	32	29
19Bastia	30	7	8	15	22	35	29
20Istres	30	3	14	13	18	33	23

HELLENIC NATIONAL LEAGUE

Xanthi 1 Kerkyra 1, Kallithea 0 Panathinaikos 2, AEK Athens 3 Ergotelis 0, Ionikos 2 Aris 1, Iraklis 2 Apollon 3, PAOK 2 Halkidona 1, OFI Crete 1 Olympiakos 1, Panionios 0 Egaleo 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1PAO	23	15	4	4	38	12	49
2AEK	23	13	9	1	35	17	48
3Olympiacos	23	13	8	2	40	14	47
4Xanthi	23	11	7	5	36	24	40
5PAOK	23	11	5	7	33	28	38
6Halkidona	23	8	7	8	23	24	31
7Egaleo	23	6	12	5	19	18	30
8Iraklis	23	8	5	10	22	24	29
9Panionios	23	6	9	8	17	21	27
10OFI	23	6	7	10	30	34	25
11Kallithea	23	5	9	9	30	35	24
12Ionikos	23	5	9	9	16	28	24
13Kalamarias	23	5	8	10	24	39	23
14Aris	23	4	10	9	21	29	22
15Ergotelis	23	5	4	14	17	39	19
16Kerkira	23	3	7	13	16	31	16

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

Bayer Leverkusen 2 Kaiserslautern 0, Bayern Munich 3 Hansa Rostock 1, Bochum 5 Wolfsburg 1, Hamburg 2 Borussia Dortmund 3, Hanover 2 Moenchengladbach 1, Hertha Berlin 3 Arminia Bielefeld 0, Nuremberg 1 Werder Bremen 2, Mainz 2 Schalke 1, Stuttgart 1 Freiburg 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Bayern	26	16	5	5	49	25	53
2Schalke	26	17	2	7	41	29	53
3Stuttgart	26	14	6	6	46	30	48
4Bremen	26	14	5	7	55	28	47
5Hertha	26	11	11	4	46	24	44
6Leverkusen	26	12	7	7	47	34	43
7Hamburg	26	14	1	11	47	42	43
8Wolfsburg	26	12	1	13	41	41	37
9Kaisers	26	10	6	10	33	34	36
10Hannover	26	10	5	11	29	30	35
11Dortmund	26	9	8	9	32	36	35
12Arminia	26	9	5	12	30	37	32
13Mainz	26	8	6	12	34	41	30
14Nürnberg	26	7	7	12	44	49	28
15Mö/adbach	26	7	7	12	28	41	28
16Bochum	26	5	7	14	35	54	22
17Hansa	26	4	8	14	23	51	20
18Freiburg	26	3	7	16	20	54	16

PORTUGUESE SUPERLIGA

Maritimo 1 Guimaraes 2, Penafiel 1 Boavista 1, Vitoria Setubal 0 Benfica 2, Estoril-Praia 2 Moreirense 0, Uniao Leiria 1 Academica 2, Gil Vicente 3 Nacional Madeira 2, Belenenses 2 Beira-Mar 0, Rio Ave 1 Braga 1, Sporting vs Porto – Tuesday AEDT.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Benfica	26	15	6	5	41	23	51
2Braga	26	12	9	5	37	20	45
3Boavista	26	12	9	5	35	31	45
4Porto	25	12	9	4	30	20	45
5Sporting	25	12	6	7	50	30	42
6Guimaræes	26	11	7	8	30	24	40
7Rio Ave	26	8	14	4	31	30	38
8Martimo	26	8	12	6	28	24	36
9Belenenses	26	10	5	11	35	30	35
10Nacional	26	10	4	12	35	35	34
11Leiria	26	7	12	7	26	25	33
12Setbal	26	8	8	10	35	37	32
13Penafiel	26	8	4	14	27	42	28
14Gil Vicente	26	7	5	14	27	35	26
15Estoril	26	7	5	14	32	43	26
16Moreirense	26	5	10	11	21	35	25
17Académica	26	6	7	13	22	35	25
18Beira-Mar	26	5	8	13	25	48	23

Luis Garcia celebrates Liverpool's derby win over city rivals Everton

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Dundee Utd 2 Celtic 3, Aberdeen 1 Dundee 1, Dunfermline 1 Hibernian 4, Hearts 3 Livingston 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Celtic	30	25	2	3	70	24	77
Rangers	30	23	6	1	63	14	75
Hibernian	30	15	5	10	51	43	50
Aberdeen	30	14	7	9	34	27	49
Hearts	30	12	9	9	35	29	45
Motherwell	29	11	6	12	35	35	39
Kilmarnock	30	11	2	17	38	50	35
Inverness CT	29	8	9	12	34	39	33
Dunfermline	30	6	8	16	26	50	26
Dundee	30	6	7	17	29	57	25
Livingston	30	6	5	19	25	52	23
Dundee Utd	30	4	10	16	31	51	22

CROATIAN LEAGUE

Hajduk Split 2 Inter 0, Kamen 3 Osijek 1, Medimurje 2 Varteks 0, NK Zagreb 2 Rijeka 1, Pula 2 Zadar 0, Slaven 3 Dinamo 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Hajduk	22	13	3	6	39	23	42
2Rijeka	22	10	8	4	37	23	38
3Slaven	22	11	4	7	29	25	37
4Inter	22	10	5	7	25	22	35
5Varteks	22	11	1	10	39	30	34
6Zagreb	22	10	3	9	27	24	33
7Dinamo	22	9	6	7	38	30	33
8Ingrad	22	10	2	10	30	28	32
9Osijek	22	7	9	6	29	32	30
10Pula	22	6	8	8	21	23	26
11Zadar	22	5	1	16	25	55	16
12Medimurje	22	3	4	15	18	42	13

SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

Deportivo Coruna 0 Barcelona 1, Espanyol 2 Real Sociedad 2, Real Betis 2 Albacete 1, Athletic Bilbao 3 Levante 1, Numancia 2 Santander 3, Real Madrid 1 Malaga 0, Real Mallorca 0 Sevilla 1, Real Zaragoza 0 Atletico Madrid 0, Valencia 3 Getafe 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Barcelona	29	21	5	3	54	18	68
2Real Madrid	29	18	3	8	49	25	57
3Betis	29	13	9	7	47	37	48
4Villarreal	28	13	8	7	48	26	47
5Sevilla	29	13	7	9	33	33	46
6Valencia	29	12	10	7	44	30	46
7Espanyol	29	13	7	9	37	35	46
8Atlético	29	12	7	10	32	25	43
9Deportivo	29	10	12	7	38	36	42
10Athletic	29	11	8	10	46	39	41
11Zaragoza	29	11	6	12	33	40	39
12Sociedad	29	10	6	13	38	42	36
13Getafe	29	9	8	12	30	35	35
14Malaga	29	10	4	15	27	37	34
15Levante	29	9	7	13	34	43	34
16Racing	29	9	7	13	32	42	34
17Osasuna	28	8	7	13	35	51	31
18Mallorca	29	6	6	17	28	49	24
19Albacete	29	5	9	15	26	42	24
20Numancia	29	4	8	17	21	47	200

TURKISH SUPER LIGA

Denizlispor 2 Fenerbahce 0, Malatyaspor 0 Rizespor 1, Gaziantepspor 2 Ankaragucu 0, Kayserispor 0 Istanbulspor 0, Besiktas 1 Trabzonspor 0, Genclerbirligi 2 Konyaspor 1, Sakaryaspor 3 Diyarbakirspor 2, Sebatspor 3 Samsunspor 0, Galatasaray 4 Ankaraspor 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Fenerbahçe	25	20	2	3	63	14	62
2Galatasaray	25	19	3	3	50	16	60
3Trabzonspor	25	17	4	4	50	21	55
4Besiktas	25	14	6	5	51	29	48
5Rizespor	25	11	7	7	30	22	40
6Denizlispor	25	11	6	8	34	29	39
7Konyaspor	25	8	10	7	48	47	34
8Gaziantspor	25	10	4	11	36	39	34
9Gençlbirligi	25	9	5	11	33	33	32
10Malaaspor	25	9	4	12	29	36	31
11Ankaraspor	25	8	6	11	35	39	30
12Diyakirspor	25	8	5	12	27	39	29
13Samsnspor	25	8	5	12	32	46	29
14Ankaraücü	25	7	7	11	22	37	28
15Sakaryspor	25	6	4	15	33	55	22
16Kayserispor	25	5	5	15	33	58	20
17Istanblspor	25	3	10	12	21	39	19
18Sebatspor	25	2	7	16	29	57	13

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

Cukaricki 3 Buducnost 1, Hajduk B 1 Obilic Belgrade 2, Hajduk Kula 1 Borac 1, Vojvodina Novi Sad 0 OFK Belgrade 1, Zemun 0 Red Star 0, Zeta Golubovci 1 Zeleznik 0, Sutjeska Niksic 0 Radnicki 1, Partizan 4 Sartid 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1Partizan	17	15	2	0	44	9	47
2Zvezda	18	14	3	1	43	11	45
3Zeta	17	12	2	3	31	12	38
4OFK	18	10	1	7	27	21	31
5Buducnost	19	8	3	8	26	24	27
6Zemun	18	7	5	6	1920		26
7Kula	18	5	7	6	18	20	22
8Beograd	17	6	4	7	17	20	22
9Sutjeska	17	5	5	7	14	23	20
10Cukaricki	18	5	4	9	18	23	19
11Obilic	17	5	4	8	19	28	19
12Smederevo	18	4	7	7	12	21	19
13Vojvodina	18	5	4	9	18	24	19
14Borac	18	4	5	9	13	27	17
15Z6eleznik	18	3	4	11	16	29	13
16Hajduk	18	1	6	11	13	36	9

Ally McCoist holds the CIS Insurance Cuprophy after their 5-1 win against Motherwell

Image by Carlos Furtado